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# YAHOO!

INTERNET LIFE

SPECIAL REPORT

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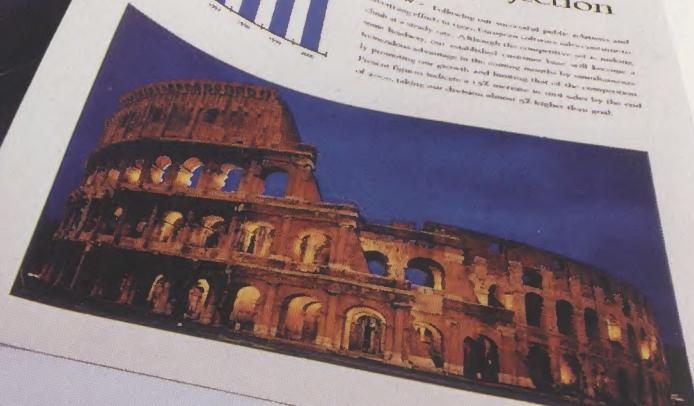


The Canon BJC-85  
Color Bubble Jet Printer

## Business Systems Overseas Projection Annual Overseas Projection

**Overview** Following our successful public relations and advertising efforts to date, Canon's color value communication products will continue to grow at a steady rate. Although the competition has made significant strides, our established product line will become increasingly advanced in the coming months by continually improving our products and surpassing that of the competition.

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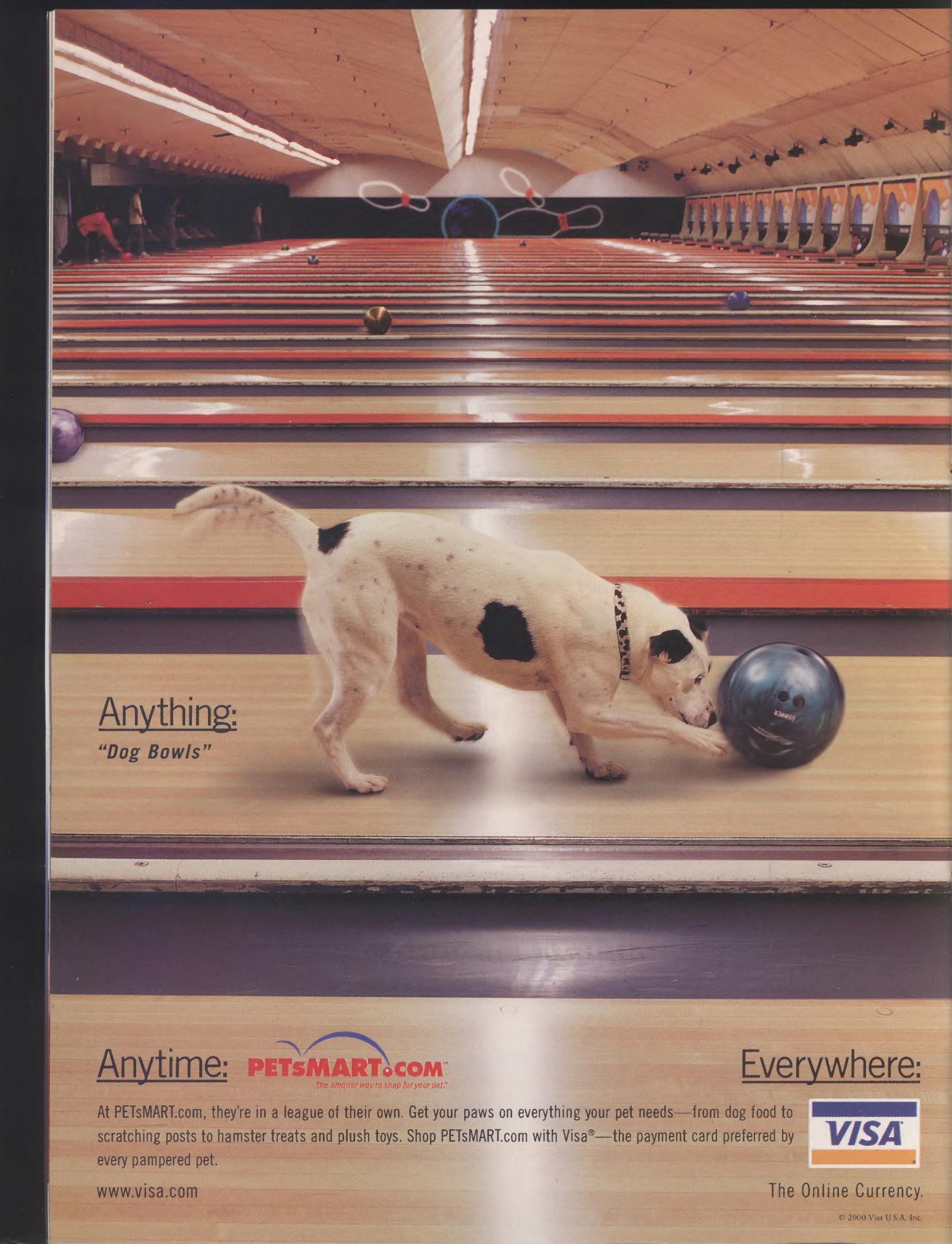
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SEPTEMBER 2000

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## Four Candles

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# BACKCHAT

OUR READERS EXPRESS THEMSELVES

## NET ADDICTION: BELIEVE THE HYPE

The Stanford University study cited in your "Internet Madness!" article is correct [JULY '00, page 100]. I am living with someone who has all the symptoms of Internet addiction. *The Washington Post* couldn't have described it any better: "The Internet is creating a class of people who are so solitary they can hardly be bothered to call Mom on her birthday." I might as well have been the mother he forgot; instead I am the fiancée that he forgot. He doesn't eat; he doesn't like to leave the computer even to go to work. I guess I could quit paying the electric bill—that way he wouldn't be able to use the darn thing.

Until you live with Internet addiction and experience it,

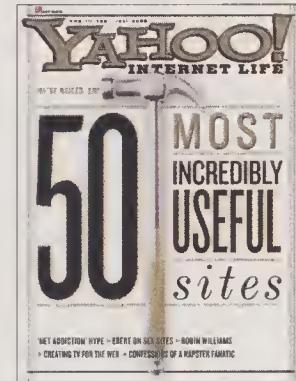
don't scoff when people say that the Net is causing an epidemic of bad mojo. Someone send me a survey!

—Robin Honeycutt  
@email.msn.com

## ONLINE FRIENDS

Regarding "Internet Madness!": As a child I was fat and brainy, and my mother was not a fashion expert. These two factors subjected me to teasing and ostracism while I was growing up. I was introverted long before the Internet came along. As an adult, I still feel a little uncomfortable going out in public, simply because I think everybody is talking behind my back, usually about how big my backside is or the fact that I choose comfort over style.

But when I finally let my



husband buy a modem, I discovered a whole new world filled with people who are intelligent, funny, outspoken, charismatic, and overwhelmingly friendly. I have more friends online than in real life, and none of my Internet acquaintances care what I look like or how I dress. And it does-

n't matter to me in the least that they might be better- or worse-looking than I am, or that they may be from a different financial background, or of a different sex or color.

Rather than making people isolated and depressed, the Internet is becoming a great unifying force.

—Janelle Feldes  
@aol.com

## THE NET WON'T ROT YOUR TEETH EITHER

Years ago, on the first day of class, my statistics professor said, "Statistics never lie, but statisticians do." By the time the course was over I had gained a great mistrust of polls, surveys, etc.

When it comes to "Internet Madness!", I can only offer this: I live in the Ozark Mountains.

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9. An MBA  
10. An MBA degree  
11. Cleaning margins can lead to  
12. Aven  
13. A credit card  
14. A love story  
15. Pain medication  
16. Melatonin  
17. Caffeine  
18. Viagra  
19. Stock options  
20. A new phone  
21. Any books written "For Dummies"  
22. A new car  
23. A 9-year-old to show you how it's done  
24. Body armor  
25. Hair spray  
26. Party favors  
27. Stiletto heels  
28. Hair gel  
29. Blue cream  
30. Attic job  
31. Breast augmentation  
32. A new car  
33. Hair extensions  
34. A friend's atmosphere  
35. Romantic moment  
36. Doc Martens  
37. A new hobby  
38. Self-confidence  
39. A wall calendar PDA, or Franklin-Covey organizer  
40. Dog training license  
41. Bus pass  
42. Anything from the Gap, Old Navy, Banana Republic & Fila  
43. Kneepads  
44. A new computer game  
45. "The Official Division Warlords Guide"  
46. A "Sex and the City" book  
47. New family members, Steve  
48. Sex  
49. Sex  
50. Box seats  
51. A second car  
52. 300-yard drives  
53. High-fives  
54. A second dog  
55. \$300 high-kicks  
56. A new car  
57. Teeth whitening  
58. Hygiene  
59. The older crossover  
60. The new crossover  
61. A tall, shiny double mocha with extra whip cream and a shot of hazelnut  
62. Concerts  
63. KY  
64. A new bag  
65. Cell phone  
66. Paper  
67. A new computer  
68. A series of style  
69. Dynamite salts  
70. A new, attractive significant other  
71. A No. 1 pop chart single  
72. An Intern  
73. A new car  
74. A poker face  
75. Taxes  
76. Divorce  
77. Social Security Card, or any form of photo ID  
78. A letter of recommendation

My 90-year-old grandmother lives in Arizona; my mother is in California; and my daughter and her family (including my grandkids) live in Alabama. My son in Georgia and I have long had computers, but everyone else was living "in darkness." Two years ago we bought everyone WebTV, and the light has come on! We all e-mail each other daily. We have never "talked" so much and have all grown much closer.

Can we become addicted to this new medium? Maybe, but is it any worse than chocolate (which adds pounds), running (which wears out shoes), or romance novels (which, according to Grandma, can rot your brain)?

**—Denise Phillips:**  
@centurytel.net

### JACKSON VS. THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

I'm glad Jesse Jackson Jr. is into the Web and computers [Y-Life Interview, "Action Jackson," July '00, page 90]. They are the forces that will drive most of our economic growth in the near future, and too few of our leaders know much about them. But Jackson is way off base when it comes to the government's seeing to it that the poor get access to computers and the Web.

There is nothing in the Constitution that guarantees economic equality. A free-market solution must be found.

**—Bob Spettigue:**  
@webtv.net

*Hey, you! Drop us a line at [backchat@ziffdavis.com](mailto:backchat@ziffdavis.com). Letters may be edited.*

### SITE GAG

BY MICK STEVENS



"SOMEWHERE IN CYBERSPACE, THE SUN IS SHINING."

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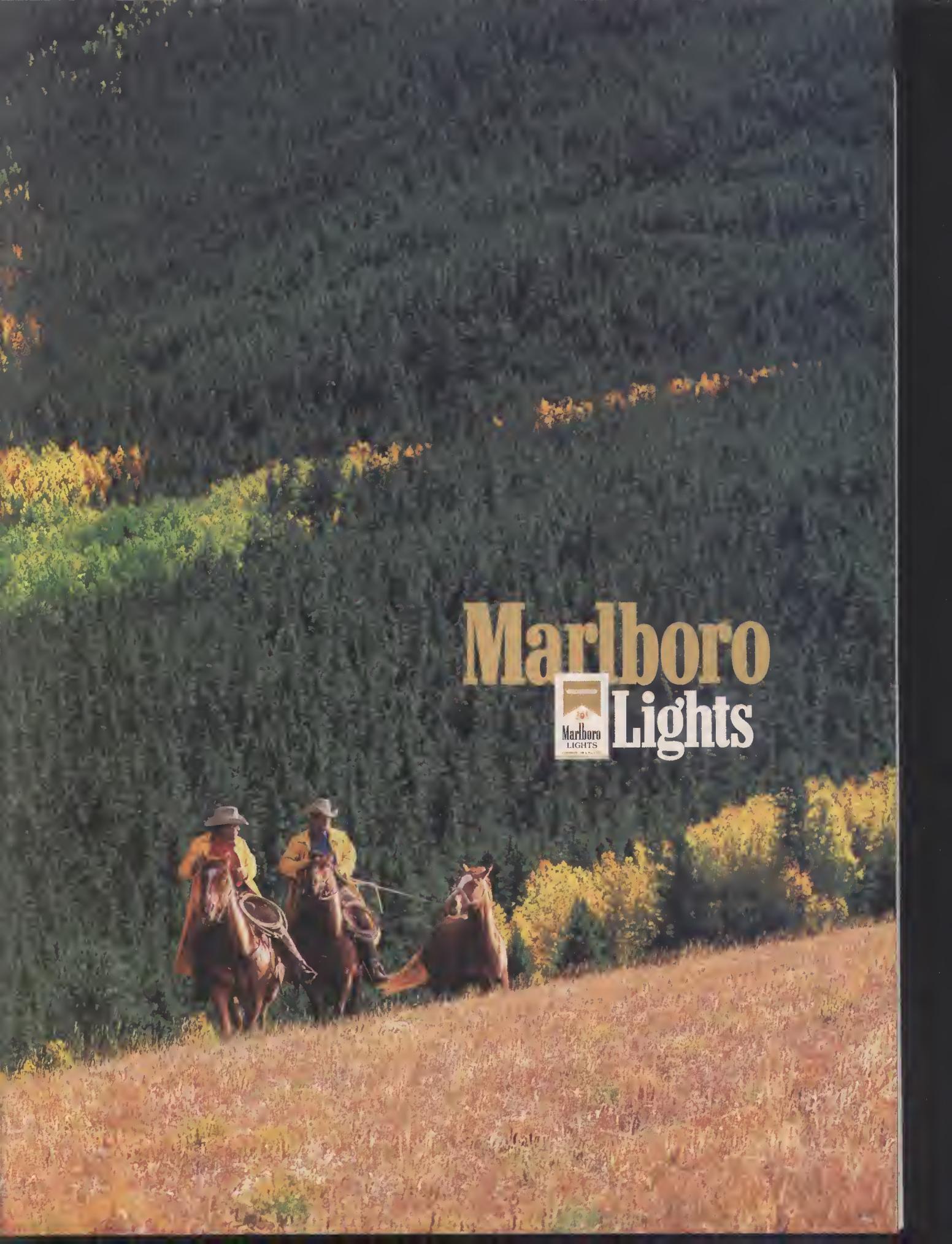
A wide-angle photograph of a forested hillside. The trees are a mix of green and various shades of yellow, orange, and red, suggesting autumn. The terrain is uneven and rocky, with patches of grass and shrubs. The perspective is from a high vantage point looking down the slope.

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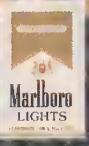
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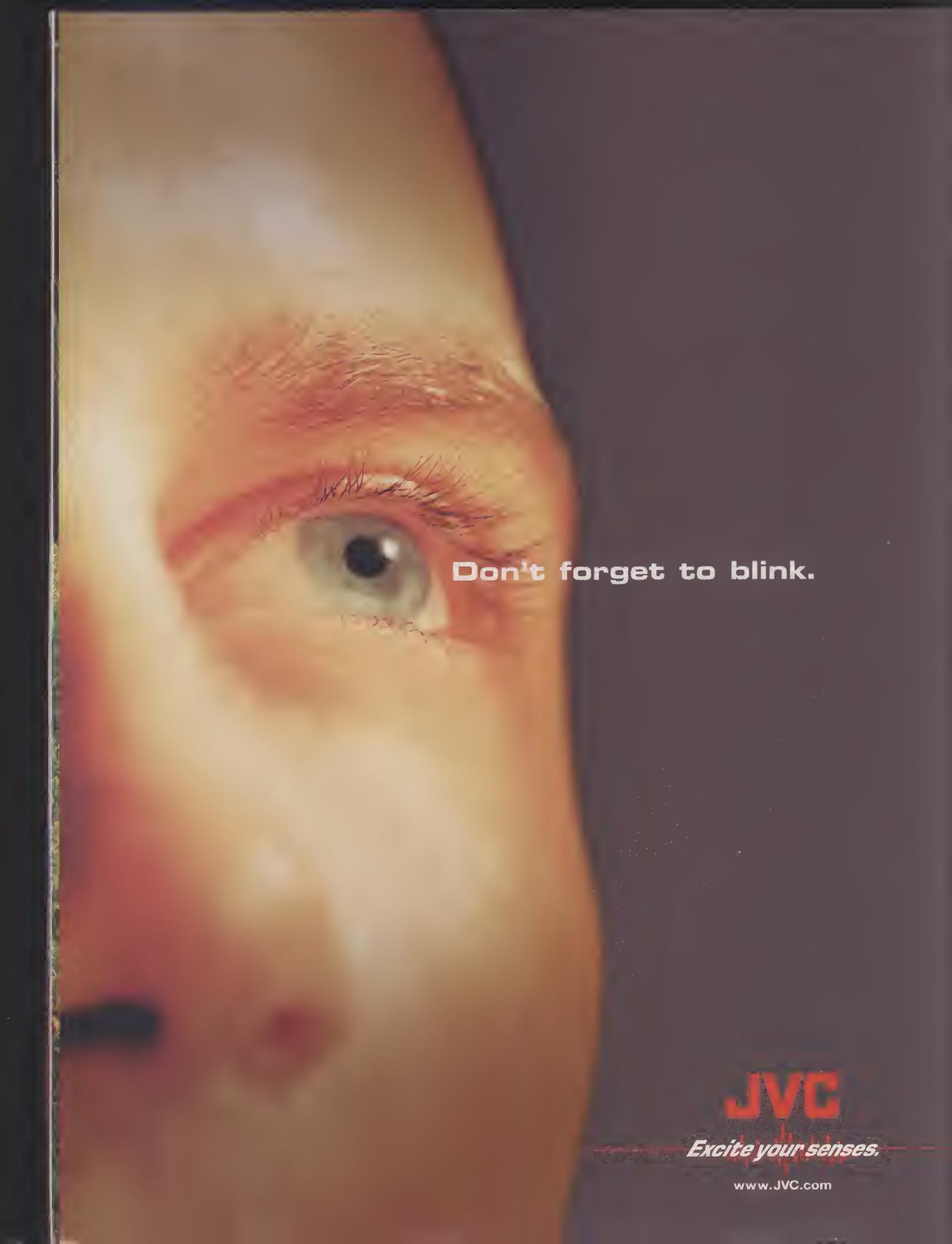
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INTERNET LIFE

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- **THE UNOFFICIAL MICHAEL JOHNSON PAGE** [[baylorn.edu/~Todd\\_Copeland/Johnson/Johnson.html](http://baylorn.edu/~Todd_Copeland/Johnson/Johnson.html)]
- **MICHAELJOHNSON.COM** [[michaeljohnson.com](http://michaeljohnson.com)]
- **THE OFFICIAL VANESSA ATLER WEB SITE** [[atler.com](http://atler.com)]
- **THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF ATO BOLDON** [[atoboldon.com](http://atoboldon.com)]
- **DONOVAN BAILEY OFFICIAL WEB SITE** [[donovanbailey.com](http://donovanbailey.com)]
- **THE OLYMPIC MUSEUM: PIERRE DE COUBERTIN** [[museum.olympic.org/e/gallery/permanent/cou\\_bio\\_e.html](http://museum.olympic.org/e/gallery/permanent/cou_bio_e.html)]
- **THE NAZI OLYMPICS BERLIN 1936** [[ushmm.org/olympics](http://ushmm.org/olympics)]
- **1972 MUNICH MASSACRE** [[jf-stockholm.org/munich/english.html](http://jf-stockholm.org/munich/english.html)]
- **POLITICS AND THE OLYMPICS** [[www.ausport.gov.au/pol.html](http://www.ausport.gov.au/pol.html)]
- **THE OLYMPIC COLLECTORS COMMISSION** [[collectors.olympic.org](http://collectors.olympic.org)]
- **OLYMPIC PIN COLLECTING** [[home.earthlink.net/~zola/pin.html](http://home.earthlink.net/~zola/pin.html)]
- **SYDNEY 2000 OLYMPIC PIN COLLECTOR BARBIE** [[barbie.com/collectors/00\\_preview\\_pshow/pshow\\_h/25644.asp](http://barbie.com/collectors/00_preview_pshow/pshow_h/25644.asp)]

## THE E-MAIL CHRONICLES

(PAGES 134-140)

- **VIRTUAL JERUSALEM** [[virtualjerusalem.com](http://virtualjerusalem.com)]
- **BRONWEN & CLAIRE'S REALLY HUGE EMOTICON COLLECTION!** [[www.angelfire.com/hl/hahaklam/emoticon.html](http://www.angelfire.com/hl/hahaklam/emoticon.html)]

## DEPARTMENTS

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- **VIEWER'S CUT: RACHAEL LEIGH COOK** [[viewlisten.com/rcook](http://viewlisten.com/rcook)]
- **POWERPUFF.COM** [[powerpuff.com](http://powerpuff.com)]
- **DR. SEUSS WENT TO WAR: A CATALOG OF POLITICAL CARTOONS BY DR. SEUSS** [[orpheus.ucsd.edu/speccoll/dspolitic](http://orpheus.ucsd.edu/speccoll/dspolitic)]

### CLICK! NEWS (PAGE 34)

- **AOLTV** [[www.aoltv.com](http://www.aoltv.com)]
- **ARTISTS AGAINST PIRACY** [[artistsagainstpiracy.com](http://artistsagainstpiracy.com)]
- **Z** [[z.com](http://z.com)]

### CLICK! HEADS UP (PAGE 36)

- **WHIPPED** [[whipped.com](http://whipped.com)]
- **ICON: OFFICIAL MADONNA FAN CLUB** [[madonnafanclub.com](http://madonnafanclub.com)]
- **MLVC.ORG** [[mlvc.org](http://mlvc.org)]
- **TRIBUTE TO MADONNA** [[tributeproductions.com/madonna\\_lobbyist.htm](http://tributeproductions.com/madonna_lobbyist.htm)]
- **THE OFFICIAL MAGRITTE SITE** [[www.magritte.com](http://www.magritte.com)]
- **SURREALISM** [[www.mcs.csuhayward.edu/~malek/Surrealism](http://www.mcs.csuhayward.edu/~malek/Surrealism)]
- **ABCNEWS.COM: NEWS CLIPS** [[abcnews.go.com/sections/us/video\\_index/video\\_index.htm](http://abcnews.go.com/sections/us/video_index/video_index.htm)]
- **DOO WOP HEAVEN** [[mcl.musicchoice.com/schedules.html](http://mcl.musicchoice.com/schedules.html)]
- **LOVE BYTES** [[eyada.com](http://eyada.com)]
- **JONNI NITRO** [[eruptor.com/eruptor](http://eruptor.com/eruptor)]
- **RADISKULL & DEVIL DOLL** [[joesparks.shockwave.com](http://joesparks.shockwave.com)]
- **AUTHOR CHATS** [[bn.com/community/calendar/calendar.asp](http://bn.com/community/calendar/calendar.asp)]

**PC SHOPPERS:**  
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□ **ESPN.COM: CHRIS MORTENSEN** [espn.go.com/community/s/archivemortensen.html]

□ **OUT AT THE POLLS** [outinamerica.com/chat/conference.asp]

#### **CLICK! SHOPPING (PAGE 38)**

□ **THE HEADBLADE** [headblade.com]

□ **BOBLBEE** [boblbee.com]

□ **PUMA** [puma.com]

□ **REVBOX** [revbox.com]

□ **YAHOO!** [yahoo.com]

□ **AMAZON.COM** [amazon.com]

#### **CLICK! GAMES (PAGE 40)**

□ **ZDNET: GAMESPOT** [gamespot.com]

□ **HAPPY PUPPY** [happypuppy.com]

□ **EVILANVIL.COM** [evilanvil.com]

□ **7 DEADLY SIMS** [7deadlysims.com]

□ **THE SIMS RESOURCE** [thesimsresource.com]

□ **MALL OF THE SIMS** [mallofthesims.com]

□ **PENNY ARCADE** [penny-arcade.com]

□ **POGO.COM** [pogo.com]

□ **RPG HAVEN** [undead.stomped.com/rpg]

#### **CLICK! HOME & OFFICE (PAGE 42)**

□ **GUIDESCOPE** [guidescope.com]

□ **DOMAINMONGER.COM** [domainmonger.com]

□ **TRIP.COM** [trip.com]

□ **PAWNBROKER.COM** [pawnbroker.com]

#### **CLICK! STYLE (PAGE 44)**

□ **LOTUS-THRONE BUDDHA** [eziba.com]

□ **CURL MIRROR** [simplymodern.com]

□ **HAMMERED-RIM MIRROR** [homeportfolio.com]

□ **FELICE VANITY MIRROR** [chiasso.com]

□ **12-INCH MIRROR BALL** [www.gardeners.com]

□ **HEAO OF BUDDHA** [mfa.org]

□ **12-INCH BUDDHA SCULPTURE** [mfa.org]

#### **CLICK! ATTITUDE (PAGE 46)**

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□ **FIRSTGDV** [firstgov.gov]

□ **ASKOJ.COM** [askoj.com]

#### **CLICK! WEB TRACKS (PAGE 48)**

□ **PURPLE SKIRT** [purpleskirt.com]

#### **CLICK! CHARTS (PAGE 50)**

□ **MEDIA METRIX** [mediamatrix.com]

□ **YAHOO! CHAT** [chat.yahoo.com]

□ **ARTNET.COM** [artnet.com]

□ **PALM GEAR H.Q.** [palmgear.com]

□ **HSX.COM** [hsx.com]

□ **SWITCHHOUSE** [switchhouse.com]

□ **ECOMPLAINTS.COM** [ecomplaints.com]

□ **LYCOS** [lycos.com]

□ **E! ONLINE** [eonline.com]

□ **DEJA.COM** [deja.com]

□ **COOB** [coob.com]

□ **MRSWAP.COM** [mrswap.com]

□ **AMAZON.COM** [amazon.com]

#### **COOL TOOLS (PAGES 55-56)**

□ **SONY** [www.sony.com]

□ **SHARP** [www.sharp-usa.com]

□ **NIKE** [nike.com]

□ **XENOTE** [xenote.com]

□ **SONY** [www.sony.com]

□ **ORACLE AUDIO TECHNOLOGIES** [www.oracle-audio.com]

#### **TOUCHED BY THE NET (PAGES 60-63)**

□ **ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF MEXICAN AMERICANS** [www.aamainc.com]

□ **ONS CORP** [www.dnsup.com]

□ **NEW2USA.COM** [www.new2usa.com]

□ **THE HOSPITALITY PROGRAM** [hosp.org]

□ **LEONARDO** [www.mos.org/leonardo]

□ **AWSEM** [awsem.com]

#### **INCREDIBLY USEFUL SITES (PAGES 64-66)**

□ **ENATURE.COM** [enature.com]

□ **BACKFLIP** [backflip.com]

□ **INVESTMOVE.COM** [investmove.com]

□ **AOVERTISEI23** [advertisei23.com]

□ **ECOMPLAINTS.COM** [ecomplaints.com]

□ **THEATERMANIA.COM** [theatermania.com]

□ **FLIGHTARRIVALS.COM** [flightarrivals.com]

□ **SEEING STARS IN HOLLYWOOD** [seeing-stars.com]

□ **ROLLER COASTER DATABASE** [rcdb.com]

□ **INTERNWEB.COM** [internweb.com]

□ **BABYLON** [babylon.com]

□ **NEWSOART** [newsdart.com]

□ **EASY BRIDGE** [thegrid.net/shan/EasyBridge.htm]

#### **OLD WAY/NET WAY (PAGES 68-70)**

□ **AMAZON.COM** [amazon.com]

□ **WEBVAN** [webvan.com]

□ **HOMEGROCER.COM** [homegrocer.com]

□ **HUMMINGBIRD HOME DELIVERY** [hummingbird-delivery.com]

□ **CLEANERS ON LINE** [www.cleanersonline.com]

□ **EMBARK.COM** [embark.com]

□ **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PATHWAYS APPLICATION CENTER** [www.ucop.edu/pathways/appctr.html]

□ **COMMON APPLICATION** [commonapp.org]

#### **Y-LIFE INTERVIEW: LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS (PAGES 74-80)**

□ **THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS** [www.loc.gov]

□ **AMERICA'S STORY FROM AMERICA'S LIBRARY** [americanlibrary.gov]

#### **GOLD STAR SITES: GETTING EXPERT ADVICE (PAGES 83-85)**

□ **LEARN2.COM** [learn2.com]

□ **ASKME.COM** [askme.com]

□ **EPINIONS.COM** [epinions.com]

□ **EXPERTS EXCHANGE** [experts-exchange.com]

□ **SERVICE911.COM** [service911.com]

□ **ASKA+ LOCATOR** [vrd.org/locator]

□ **BLINK** [blink.com]

□ **CLIP2** [clip2.com]

□ **EXP** [exp.com]

□ **EXPERTCENTRAL.COM** [expertcentral.com]

□ **ABUZZ** [abuzz.com]

□ **KNOWPOST** [knowpost.com]

□ **DEJA.COM** [deja.com]

□ **PRODUCTOPIA** [productopia.com]

#### **Pretty Strange (PAGE 170)**

□ **GODAWFUL STAR TREK FAN FICTION** [internettrash.com/users/godawful\_trekfic]

□ **RARE PERSON WHO NIBBLES GLASS CUPS** [www.lincy.com/lincy/lyce.htm]

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- THE SHRINE TO TOAST [www.teleport.com/~cramsay/shrine.html]
- THE SHOWER PROJECT 1999 [theshowerproject.com]
- SPUD SERVER [totl.net/Spud]

## WEB GUIDE

### NEW, NOTABLE & FUN (PAGES 150-151)

- DISNEY.COM [disney.com]
- BLOOMBERG.COM: QUICK QUOTE [www.bloomberg.com/quickquote]
- BHG.COM: RECIPE CENTER [recipe.bhg.com]
- BLUE EAR [blueear.com]
- POLICAST.COM [policast.com]
- THE LEFT HAND.COM [thelefthand.com]
- HOMETOWNSFAN.COM [hometownfan.com]
- EDUCAI [www.educaid.com]
- EGRAD2000.COM [egrad2000.com]
- IEXPLORE [iexplore.com]
- AVANTGO: FOOORS.COM [avantgo.com/channels/detail.html?cha\_id=1642&cat\_ids=125]
- CHANNELFLY.COM [channelfly.com]
- TWANGZINE [twangzine.com]
- RADIO AFGHANISTAN [radioafghanistan.com]
- DITTO [ditto.com]
- BUSINESS.COM [business.com]
- XREFER [xrefer.com]

### ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS (PAGES 152-153)

- NICK AT NITE/TV LAND [nick-at-nite.com]
- SCIFI.COM [scifi.com]
- CHARLIE'S ANGELS [www.spe.sony.com/tv/shows/sgn/ca]
- TVPARTY [tvparty.com]
- LIKE TELEVISION: THE CLASSIC TV CHANNEL [liketelevision.com/classic/index.shtml]
- ABOUT: CLASSIC TV [classictv.about.com]
- ROOTSWORLD [www.rootsworld.com]
- THE BRAZILIAN SOUND [thebraziliansound.com]
- LAMUSICA.COM [lamusica.com]
- TEJANO HOME PAGE [ondanet.com/tejano/tejano.html]
- GEMSTONE III [gemstone3.com]
- MOOUS OPERAOI [play.net/simunet\_public/mohome.asp]

- MUO LISTINGS BY CATEGORY [mudconnect.com/mud\_category.html]
- WEBRPG [webrpg.com]

### MONEY & SHOPPING (PAGES 154-155)

- BLUEFLY [bluefly.com]
- SMARTERKIDS.COM [smarterkids.com]
- THEDORMSTORE.COM [thedormstore.com]
- VARSITYBOOKS.COM [varsitybooks.com]
- BIGWORDS.COM [bigwords.com]
- EOU.COM [edu.com]
- BODYTRENDS.COM [bodytrends.com]
- SHOPSPORTS.COM [shopsports.com]
- THE SPORTS AUTHORITY [thesportsauthority.com]
- SPORT CHALET [sportchalet.com]
- MORNINGSTAR.COM: SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING [news.morningstar.com/news/ms/sri/sri.html]
- SOCIALFUNDS.COM [socialfunds.com]
- CORPORATE WATCH [www.corpwatch.org]
- FOOL.COM: MESSAGE BOARDS [boards.fool.com]

### TRAVEL & RECREATION (PAGES 156-159)

- SURFERMAG.COM [surfermag.com]
- SURFLINE [surfline.com]
- SWELL.COM [swell.com]
- GLOBAL WAM FORECASTS [152.80.49.210/PUBLIC/WAM/wam.html]
- SURFRIDER FOUNDATION USA [surfrider.org]
- SF GATE: BAY AREA TRAVELER [sfgate.com/travel]
- VICTORIAN STYLE...IN SAN FRANCISCO [geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Palladium/8026/victorianstyle.html]
- THE SAN FRANCISCO CABLE CAR WEBSITE [sfcablcar.com]
- THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE: ALCATRAZ ISLAND [www.nps.gov/alcatraz]
- SAN FRANCISCO UNDERGROUND TRAVEL [sftravel.com]
- WEATHER.COM [weather.com]
- WUNDERGROUND.COM [wunderground.com]
- HURRICANE & STORM TRACKING FOR THE ATLANTIC & PACIFIC OCEANS [hurricane.terrapin.com]
- NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER: TROPICAL PREDICTION CENTER [www.nhc.noaa.gov]
- NATIONAL CENTERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PREDICTION [www.ncep.noaa.gov]

### LIFESTYLE & COMMUNITY

- (PAGES 160-161)
- BUST: THE VOICE OF THE NEW GIRL [oroer [www.bust.com]]
- CHICKCLICK [chickclick.com]
- PLANETGRRRL [www.planetgrrl.com]
- GRRRL [www.grrl.com]
- WINE EDUCATION SITE [www.wineducation.com]
- ROBIN GARR'S WINE LOVERS' PAGE [wine-lovers-page.com]
- WINE SPECTATOR [winespectator.com]
- SPORTS ILLUSTRATED FOR KIDS [sikids.com]
- LITTLE LEAGUE ONLINE [www.littleleague.org]
- SOCCER JR. ONLINE [soccerjr.com]
- BLACK BELT FOR KIDS [www.blackbeltmag.com/bbkids]

## WEB USER

### FIND IT (PAGE 163)

- SHOUTMAIL.COM [shoutmail.com]
- EVOKE COMMUNICATIONS [evoke.com]
- TELLSOFT: ITALK! [italk.com]
- TALKSENDER [talksender.com]
- TALKWAY COMMUNICATIONS [talkway.com]
- COOLEMAIL [coolemail.com]
- MULTICITY.COM [multicity.com]
- BETTER SEARCHBAR [stormbird.cjb.net]
- WEBMASTERSUITE.COM [webmastersuite.com]

### LEARN IT (PAGE 164)

- ENETBOT [enetbot.com]

### SEARCH ALERT (PAGE 165)

- SEARCH ENGINE WATCH: SEARCH LINKS [searchenginewatch.com/links]
- SEARCH ENGINE GUIDE [searchenginewatch.com]
- SEARCH ENGINE WATCH [searchenginewatch.com]
- ECLEANER [members.tripod.com/schin26]
- URLSEARCH [hotfiles.com]
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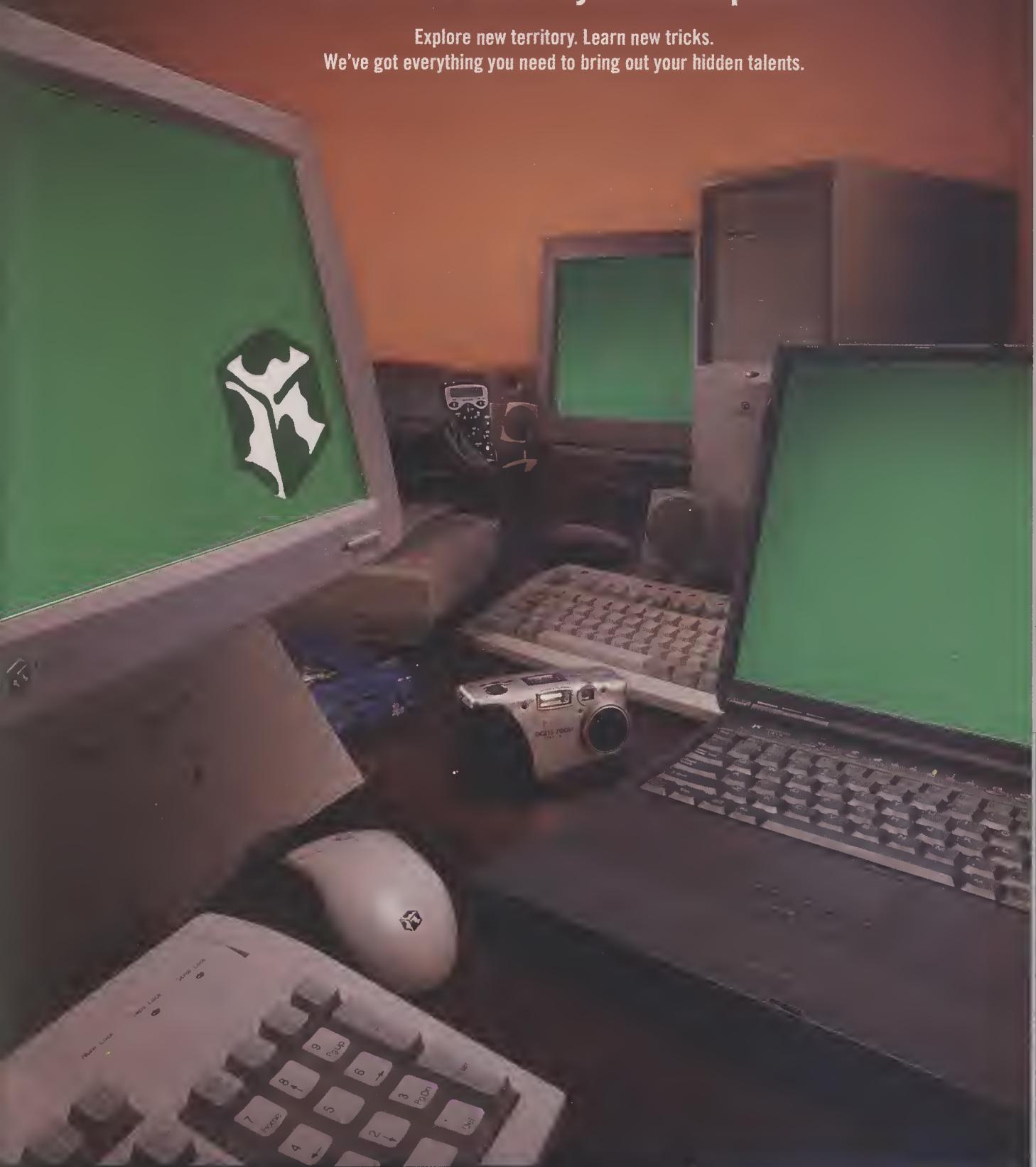
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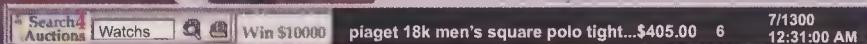
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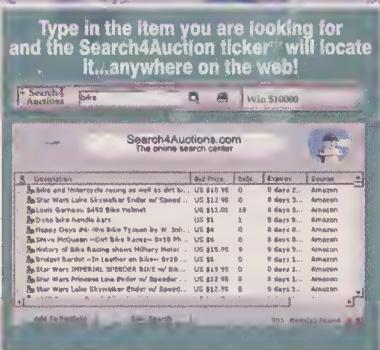


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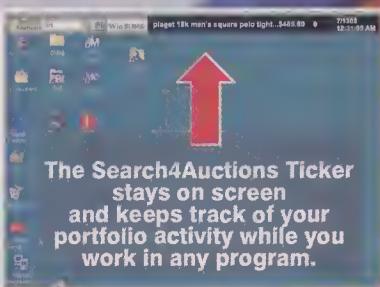


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PEOPLE, PLACES, AND TRENDS ON THE NET 09.00

ED BY RON BEL BRUNO

## NET OBSESSIONS



### DAVID BOREANAZ

Buffy the Vampire Slayer's undead heartthrob is back on the WB with a second round of Angel. Dish about the new episodes in one of his 61 Yahoo! clubs. Start @: **ANGEL'S HEART DAVID BOREANAZ** [clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/angelsheartdavidboreanaz]

### RACHAEL LEIGH COOK

The She's All That alumna stars in the upcoming flick *Josie and the Pussycats*. Lap up the prose and pix at her eight fan sites. Start @: **VIEWER'S CUT: RACHAEL LEIGH COOK** [viewlisten.com/rlicook]

### THE POWERPUFF GIRLS

Also headed to the big screen are Blossom, Buttercup, and Bubbles—the Cartoon Network's crime-fighting kindergartners. To peruse their 33 Web rings, start @: **POWERPUFF.COM**



### memorable site

## (Uncle) Sam I Am

HERE'S NARY A POSTWAR AMERICAN ALIVE who hasn't browsed—if not memorized—*Green Eggs and Ham* or *The Cat in the Hat*. But you've most likely never seen some lesser-known works of author and artist Theodor Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss. During a World War II-era stint as an editorial cartoonist, Geisel

created a portfolio of pen-and-ink cartoons.

View them at **DR. SEUSS WENT TO**

**WAR: A CATALOG OF POLITICAL CAR-**

**TOONS BY DR. SEUSS** [orpheus.

ucsd.edu/speccoll/dspolitic].

The unmistakable visual whimsy of the future "doctor" is all there.

—M.G.

VISIT Y-LIFE'S ARCHIVE OF MEMORABLE SITES AT [YIL.COM/MEMORABLE](http://YIL.COM/MEMORABLE).

THE CLICK CLIQUE: JEREMY CAPLAN, BILGE EBIRI, MEGAN GERRITY, LYNN GINSBURG, GAIL HENRY, DAVID KUSHNER, DEBORAH PICKER, MARC SALTZMAN. WRITE TO [CLICK@ZIFFDAVIS.COM](mailto:CLICK@ZIFFDAVIS.COM). READERS ONLY, PLEASE!



## Who Wants Their AOLTV?

You've always wanted to type instant messages on your TV screen while watching *Friends*, right? Now you can



**M**AGINE MISSING YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW because you're surfing the Net. Fear not. AOL thinks it has devised the ultimate fix for multitasking junkies: AOLTV. This interactive service puts popular AOL and browser features on your TV screen via a set-top box (\$249) equipped with an infrared keyboard and hooked into a phone line. AOLTV monthly service costs \$15 for AOL members, \$25 for nonmembers.

In many ways, it's not unlike Microsoft's dim yet persistent WebTV venture. However, unlike WebTV, AOLTV offers AOL features, such as instant mes-

saging and buddy lists. In addition, 11 channels of original content supplement selected TV shows, and member chatrooms allow you to chew the fat about almost any TV broadcast as it's aired. Full Web access completes the package.

In July, the first set-top boxes from Phillips Electronics trickled into eight test markets via Circuit City outlets and online at AOLTV [aoltv.com]. As the service launches nationwide, the question is, who will buy it? "AOL members," says Stan Simon, a media convergence and entertainment expert at Greenfield Online. "They tend to be younger and into multitasking."

AOL concurs. "We're not trying to replace television. It's just meant to make the viewing experience interactive," says spokeswoman Anne Bentley.

Josh Bernoff, an analyst at Forrester Research, is less optimistic. "Picture this exchange: 'Dad, can I get a new box for the TV so I can chat with my friends during TV programs and tie up a phone line?' Dad: '#@&%.' AOLTV won't fly....[There's] too little value."

How will AOL's pending merger with Time Warner affect AOLTV content offerings? Both companies are mum for now, but it's hard to imagine not seeing *Dawson's Creek* cast chats and other WB-TV fan fare surfacing once the deal is cinched. —D.P.

### quotables

**"This is an incredible time; we have the luxury to dream and make the cyberworld what we want. I want to reach people with movies or TV and make them think that."**

—PO BRONSON, on the film of his book *The Nudist on the Late Shift*



## NETBRIEFS.09/00

**DEAL TIME** In an agreement with the U.S. Attorney's office, convicted sex offender and former Infoseek executive Patrick Naughton will provide technical assistance in federal criminal investigations. A reduced sentence is in the offing if Naughton's help is "substantial."...**ROCK THE SENATE** The music industry-backed group ARTISTS AGAINST PIRACY [artistsagainstpiracy.com], its ranks including Christina Aguilera, Blink-182, Alanis Morissette, and DMX, went to Washington recently to testify against Napster downloads at Senate Judiciary

Committee hearings. AGP has also sponsored newspaper, TV, radio, and Net ads to bring attention to online music piracy....

**MEATY CONTROVERSY** The FBI's use of the e-mail-scanning software Carnivore has privacy advocates up in arms. Used like a wiretap, the system can plug into an

ISP to scan whatever passes through its servers. Civil liberties groups say Carnivore's ability to read e-mail addresses and subject lines infringes on the privacy rights of ISPs and customers....

**FUNNY MEN** As part of their deal with Z [z.com], Chris Rock (left) and Mike Judge will provide the site with exclusive original material. They join David Spade, Red Hot Chili Peppers, and Tyra Banks. —M.G.



**"A great song is not just something to take up space next to stock quotes and baseball scores."**

—COURTNEY LOVE, on the difference between art and Web content

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## FILM

One of the more ambitious film sites we've seen in quite a while comes from a title producing little advance thunder: **WHIPPEO** [[whipped.com](http://whipped.com)], the official site of the film of the same name—"a riotous romp through the cesspool of dating hell," starring Amanda Peet. Send in your choices for the Pickup Line contest and consult the Whipped-tionary, a compendium of dating- and sex-related slang terms. We never knew what *grenade* and *merk* meant until now. (Warning: This site is for mature audiences only.)

## MUSIC

Madonna fans who frequent online music sites have been trading bits and pieces (including the hot title track) of her new album, *Music*, for some time. Last month they finally went legit. The party line at **ICON: OFFICIAL MAOONNA FAN CLUB** [[madonnafanclub.com](http://madonnafanclub.com)] not only provides confirmed tour dates

but also doubles as a rumor filter and tracks the lady's every move. Meanwhile, fan dens such as **MLVC.ORG** are always in vogue: They offer devotees a forum for sharing interpretations of the former Material Girl's songs, not to mention an abundance of photographs. Rounding out the online trinity, **TRIBUTE TO MAOONNA** [[tributeproductions.com/madonna\\_impersonator.htm](http://tributeproductions.com/madonna_impersonator.htm)], hosted by Madonna impersonator Denise Bella Vlasis, is decidedly offbeat. The site's tag line: "The most requested. The most experienced." Indeed, she has got the Madonna shtick down.

## ART

An exhibition of selected works by René Magritte, who died in 1967, closes at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art this month. On the Web, the Belgian surrealist painter is the perpetual artist-in-residence at **THE OFFICIAL**

**MAGRITTE SITE** [[www.magrritte.com](http://www.magrritte.com)]. It features some 300 works, an extensive bibliography, and exhibit updates, in addition to an online store. If this site arouses your curiosity, **SURREALISM** [[www.mcs.csuhayward.edu/~malek/Surrealism](http://www.mcs.csuhayward.edu/~malek/Surrealism)] includes commentary on Giorgio de Chirico and Salvador Dalí, among other artists. —B.E.



ABOVE: Brian Van Holt, Peet.  
RIGHT: Music maker Madonna.

## WHEREWHEN

### CATCH IT LIVE\*

#### ABCNEWS.COM: NEWS CLIPS

News and behind-the-scenes views.

[[abcnews.go.com/sections/us/video\\_index/video\\_index.html](http://abcnews.go.com/sections/us/video_index/video_index.html)]

#### OOO WOP HEAVEN

Revisit a high school hop. [[mcf.musicchoice.com/schedules.html](http://mcf.musicchoice.com/schedules.html)]

#### LOVE BYTES

Sexpert Bob Berkowitz. [[eyada.com](http://eyada.com)]

### GET IT ANYTIME

#### JONNI NITRO

Sexy spy thriller starring Olivia d'Abo. [[eruptor.com/eruptor](http://eruptor.com/eruptor)]

#### RADISKULL & OEVIL OOLL

Cult animation. [[joesparks.shockwave.com](http://joesparks.shockwave.com)]

### CHATS

#### AUTHOR CHATS

Now they speak. [[bn.com/community/calendar/calendar.asp](http://bn.com/community/calendar/calendar.asp)]

#### ESPN.COM: CHRIS MORTENSEN

It's almost football season. [[espn.go.com/community/s/archivemortensen.html](http://espn.go.com/community/s/archivemortensen.html)]

#### OUT AT THE POLLS

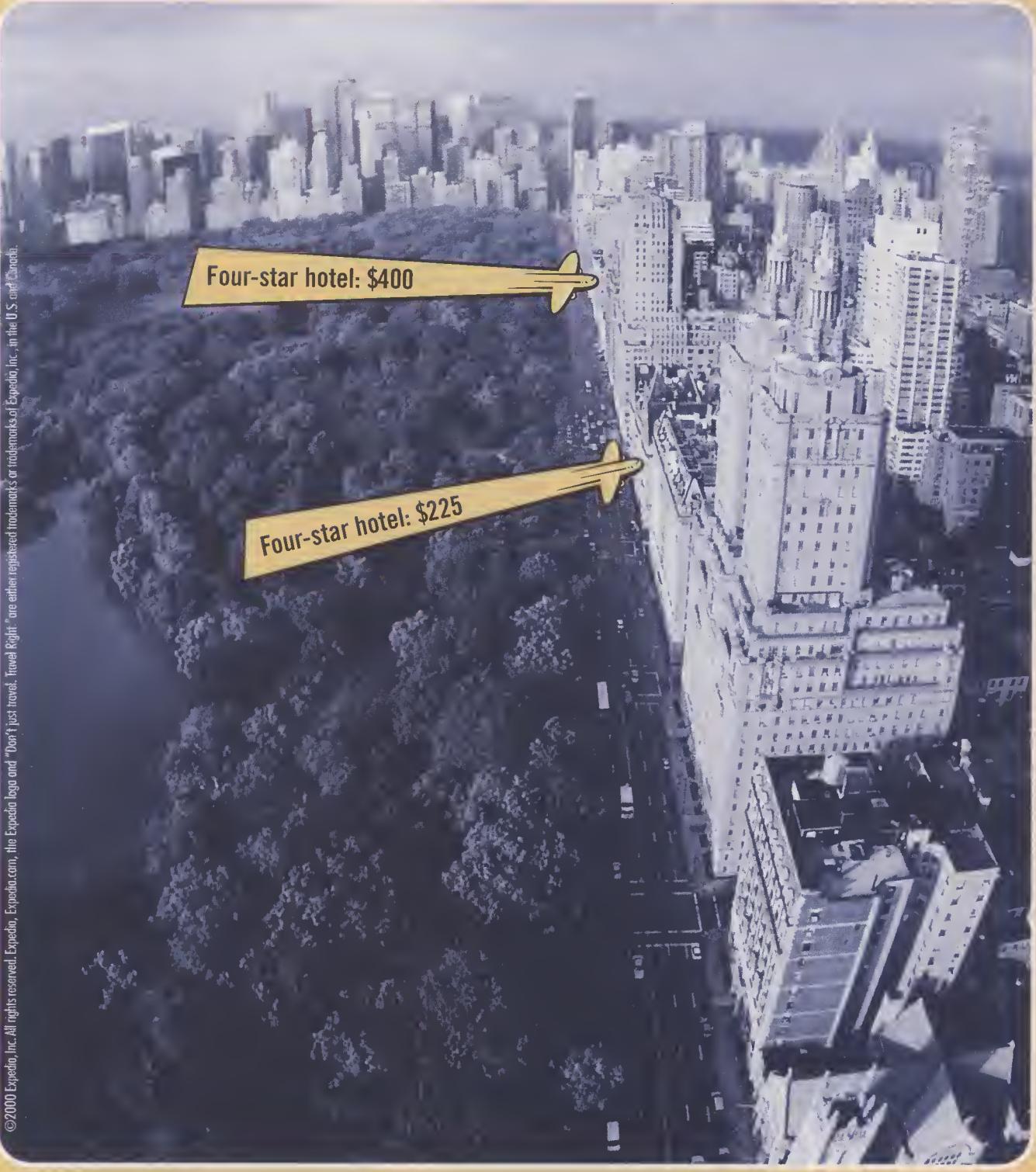
Gay voters talk politics. [[outinamerica.com/chat/conference.asp](http://outinamerica.com/chat/conference.asp)]

\* All times are Eastern.

### overheard

"I hated gym....It was unfair that they wouldn't let more-sensitive students play bridge instead of play softball."

—DAVID SEDARIS  
in a recent chat at Barnes&Noble.com



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# click! SHOPPING

BY GAIL HENRY



## 1 PATE MATE

Admit it: The comb-over is futile. Visit **THE HEADBLADE** [[headblade.com](http://headblade.com)] to get the right tool (\$15) for a cleanly shaved scalp.

## 2 BUFF PACK

This hard-shell backpack (\$230) from **BOBLBEE** [[boblbee.com](http://boblbee.com)] stands out with a shining fenderlike case that protects laptops, handhelds, and other personal gear from the elements.

## 3 BREATHE DEEP

Puma's Cell Inhale runners (\$100) earn points for their lightweight construction and sleek good looks. Find them at **PUMA** [[puma.com](http://puma.com)].



3

## SHOP SMARTER

The PC you bought online decides to go to the Great Beyond two weeks after its warranty expires. Arm yourself against similar losses down the road. Next time you shop online, consult **REVBOX** [[revbox.com](http://revbox.com)] before you buy. This service sells extended warranties and repair contracts on consumer electronics, appliances, fitness gear, and garden equipment, in addition to PC help-desk services. It also gives you a place to keep your purchase information, such as when and where you bought an item and how much you paid for it.

## AUCTION ACTION



At **YAHOO!**'s [[yahoo.com](http://yahoo.com)] **NYC 2000** fashion auction, held to benefit the Center for Arts Education, a **Carolina Herrera** dress valued at \$4,000 went for \$890....The Boston Garden lives on for 17 Celtics fans who got pieces of the late arena's **parquet floor** at a recent Sotheby's and **AMAZON.COM** auction. Most expensive: A \$113,500 chunk of court emblazoned with the team's leprechaun logo.

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## TOP GAMING GALS

Surfers' most favored female gaming figures

- 1 LARA CROFT, TOMB RAIDER SERIES
- 2 KERRIGAN, QUEEN OF BLADES, STAR-CRAFT AND BROOD WAR
- 3 AERIS GAINSBOROUGH, FINAL FANTASY VII
- 4 SHODAN, SYSTEM SHOCK I AND 2
- 5 TIFA LOCKHART, FINAL FANTASY VII
- 6 ELAINE MARLEY, MONKEY ISLAND GAMES
- 7 VIKTORIA, THIEF AND THIEF II
- 8 ANNAH, PLANESCAPE: TORMENT
- 9 GRACE NAKIMURA, GABRIEL KNIGHT SERIES
- 10 RYNN, DRAKAN; ELEX; IS SINCLAIR, SIN (TIE)

Rankings reflect surfers' votes at [gamespot.com] during June.



## TOP DEMOS

The 10 most popular games at Happy Puppy

- 1 KICKFLIP
- 2 CARMAGEDDON TDR 2000
- 3 MOK 2
- 4 DEUS EX
- 5 GRAND THEFT AUTO 2
- 6 SOLDIER OF FORTUNE
- 7 SUPERBIKE 2000
- 8 NEED FOR SPEED: PORSCHE UNLEASHED
- 9 CARMAGEDDON 2: CARPOCALYPSE NOW
- 10 EARTH 2150: ESCAPE FROM THE BLUE PLANET

Rankings reflect downloads at [happy puppy.com] for the week ending 6/30.

# Sims After Dark

Every community has a bit of intrigue and scandal. So why should the Sims' hood be any different?

**N**EWS FLASH: BOB AND CAROL ARE HISTORY. Carol had noticed that Bob was spending quite a bit of male-bonding time with their hunky neighbor Mike, for whom she had secretly pined. One day she came home from work to find Bob and Mike kissing by the whirlpool, and that was that.

This isn't one of those "very special episodes" of your favorite nighttime soap, but an unusual twist in the plot development of the Sims, this year's best-selling computer game. In this Electronic Arts title, players control the personal and professional lives of a simulated community. And thanks to the game's built-in versatility, and the fervent imaginations of some clever tinkerers, the Sims can take on a decidedly adult tone. On the Web, you can find everything from naughty Sims comic strips to software patches for new personalities, locales, speech patterns, and situations—including add-ons that render characters naked.

Dave Nicholls is webmaster of the Evil Sims section of **EVILANVIL.COM**, a site hosting more than 130 free patches. "We just wanted a chance to see what happens when you put, say, the Swedish bikini team in the same house with Cheech and Chong or Charles Manson," he says. And thanks to such mischievous types as graphic designer Chad Authier, art imitates real life in Simland. He says that his **7 DEADLY SIMS**

[[7deadlysims.com](http://7deadlysims.com)] helps you add "a family well suited to appear on *The Jerry Springer Show*, fights and all." Other popular destinations: **THE SIMS RESOURCE** [[thesimsresource.com](http://thesimsresource.com)] and **MALL OF THE SIMS** [[mallofthesims.com](http://mallofthesims.com)].

Amid all this ingenious fan handiwork, Electronic Arts is readying Livin' Large, the first official expansion pack for the Sims, for release this month. Its offerings include—you guessed it—a vibrating bed. —M.S.

**HONEYMOON HIJINKS:** Livin' Large shakes up the bedroom.



## GAMING ROUNDUP

### KA-POWEE!

A Web-based comic strip, **PENNY ARCADE** [[penny-arcade.com](http://penny-arcade.com)],



cleverly pokes fun at the latest products, trends, and personalities in the gaming biz. Watch as Duke Nukem and Dilbert get theirs.

### TRIVIAL TASKS

The **POGO.COM** game network recently launched the Great Pogini, a "future-trivia" game that invites players to guess the outcome of upcoming events: presidential elections, award ceremonies, and even Microsoft's legal woes. Winners receive tokens,

which are redeemable toward cash-prize drawings.

### DO-IT-YOURSELF RPG

If after trying a slew of fair-to-middling role-playing titles you've thought, "Hell, I can do better than this," here's your chance. **RPG HAVEN** [[undead.stomped.com/rpg](http://undead.stomped.com/rpg)] gives budding designers with visions of game nirvana the tools, tiles, characters, sounds, and utilities to create the Next Big Thing. Free.

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## NETSAVERS



### BLOCKED

Say no to banner-style advertisements with **GUIDESCOPE**

[guidescope.com]. The site's freely downloadable software filters noxious minibillboards from Web pages as your browser calls them up. Guidescopes draws its powers of discernment from a database of known ads residing on its server; its users can add their own selections to this list simply by clicking on the offending eyesore. And here's a bonus: Because Guidescopes lets you skip all the ad graphics, your surfing speed will be about 150 percent faster, its authors claim. That makes complete sense to us.

—L.G.



### CHEAP DIGS

Head over to **DOMAINMONGER.COM** and plunk down a mere \$17

to lease the .com, .org, or .net of your dreams for one year. Even if you're not ready to set up a Web homestead just yet, isn't it worth the investment to get the domain name you always wanted? Savings increase along with the term of your commitment: A 10-year lease costs just \$14.75 annually.

—J.C.



### FAST TRACKS

Thanks to the cell phone, you can change a flight reservation while waiting in line at the airport. And now, thanks to **TRIP.COM**—a travel service for Web-enabled cell phones and wireless PDAs—you don't even have to chat with a cheery representative when you want to alter those plans. Trip uses AvantGo software and its own FlightTracker system to check a flight's airspeed, altitude, and updated arrival time, all while providing the usual array of reservation services. The site also handles hotel and car arrangements for weary travelers who've been...hanging on the telephone.

—J.C.

## Second Time Around

How much is that used sax in the window? Your browser window, that is



**W**HEN EBAY BROUGHT THE AUCTION ritual online, a whiff of the romance of traditional auctions came along with it. Now a site called **PAWBROKER.COM** offers a different kind of Old World atmosphere.

Ever been to a pawnshop? They're not exactly cheery places. Those who are down on their luck—owing back taxes, wiped out by alimony payments, or worse—bring in such items as stereos, musical instruments, and jewelry for a quick loan. If they can pay back the proprietor before the item is sold, they're ahead of the game. But more often than not, they're kissing that alto sax from their band days (or a prized baseball card collection) good-bye.

Pawnbroker.com acts as a clearinghouse for pawnshops nationwide. Those gold chains that might not appeal to Dallas shoppers, for example, could move faster among East Coast surfers—yet another instance of the Net's great leveraging power.

Overall, we found higher-quality goods at Pawnbroker.com than we expected. On one visit, offerings included an Ernie



Ball-Eddie Van Halen guitar (one of only 30 made; \$11,986), an antique Russian samovar (\$299), and an almost new (1999) Harley-Davidson bike (\$29,000).

Lovers on a budget, take note: The site lists hundreds of jewelry items, including engagement and wedding rings.

For those who can't afford to pay top dollar, Pawnbroker.com offers alternatives. The prices of its FreeFall items, for example, drop incrementally—whether by \$1 or \$10—at regular, timed intervals. And the prices on many items are negotiable, so you can haggle to your heart's content.

Good deals aside, would you be apprehensive about buying a big-ticket item from such a source? According to the research firm Jupiter Communications, publicity in the past year about online frauds is making e-tailers work twice as hard to win shoppers' confidence. Knowing this, Pawnbroker.com offers a 10-day, money-back guarantee for anything you buy from the site.

You can't get that at the place downtown, now, can you?

—L.G.

To pick stocks like Janus, prick up your ears. Catch the scent of a good opportunity. Then dig into the company. Paw through the numbers. Track down the details. Once the dogged work is done, sniff around for the subtle clues. See how the company really runs. At Janus, that's what it takes to find out if you're barking up the right tree.



# hunting

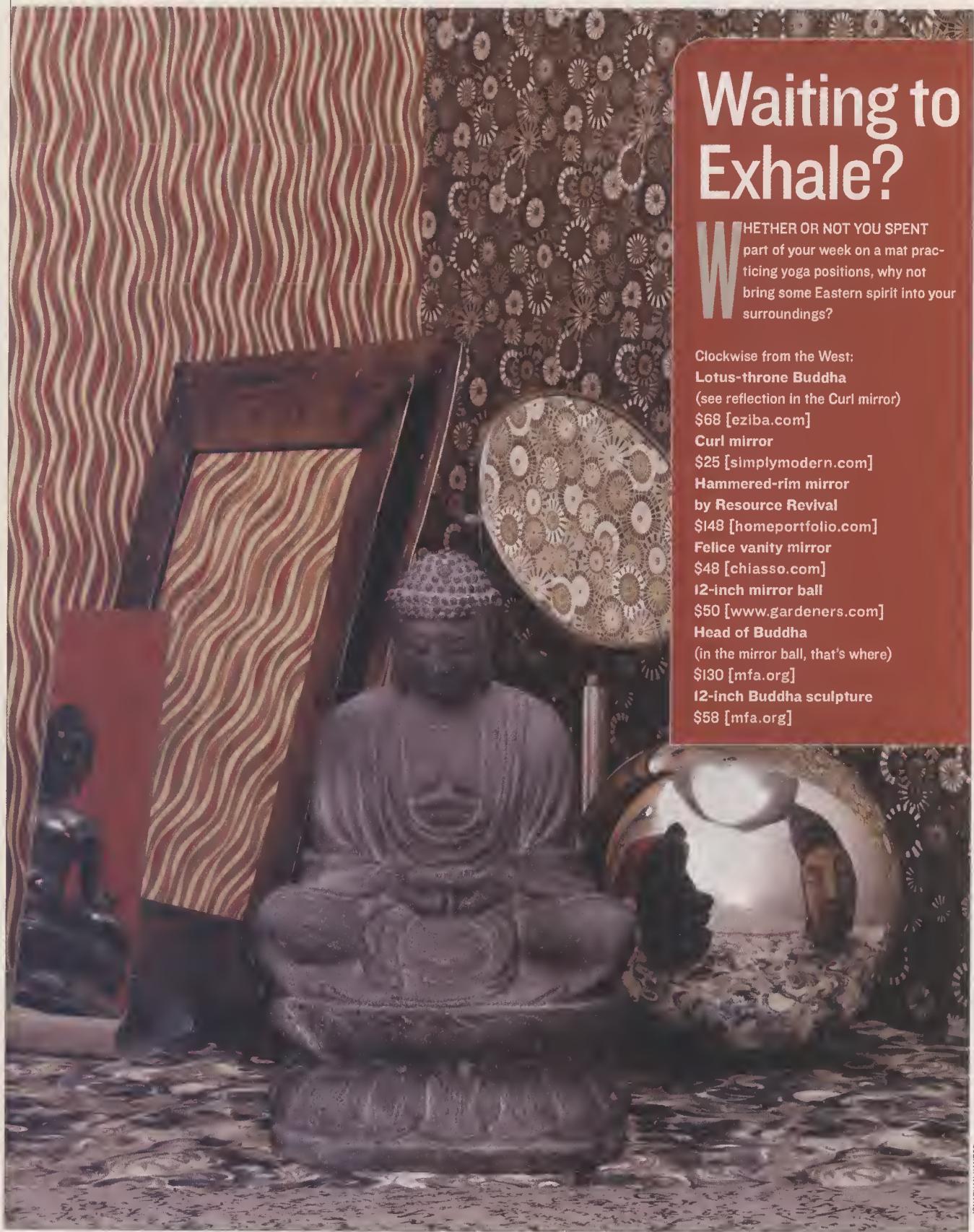
## Introducing Janus Orion Fund

Janus unleashes a new aggressive growth fund, normally focusing on just 20 to 30 companies of any size, anywhere in the world. Launch date: June 30, 2000.



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there.



## Waiting to Exhale?

**W**HETHER OR NOT YOU SPENT part of your week on a mat practicing yoga positions, why not bring some Eastern spirit into your surroundings?

Clockwise from the West:

**Lotus-throne Buddha**

(see reflection in the Curl mirror)

\$68 [eziba.com]

**Curl mirror**

\$25 [simplymodern.com]

**Hammered-rim mirror**

by **Resource Revival**

\$148 [homeportfolio.com]

**Felice vanity mirror**

\$48 [chiasso.com]

**12-inch mirror ball**

\$50 [www.gardeners.com]

**Head of Buddha**

(in the mirror ball, that's where)

\$130 [mfa.org]

**12-inch Buddha sculpture**

\$58 [mfa.org]

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# click! ATTITUDE

## ASK GASTON



### DEAR GASTON,

I recently tried to buy the domain for my family name—only to find that Cory, my technogeek cousin, has already leased it. The rat said I can have my very own e-mail address on the Frankenplatz site and 10 MB of space to create my own pages—for only \$4.95 a month. Am I not protected from such theft under the law? —Nameless

**NAMELESS:** I am saddened by your tale. You are not protected by law, because no crime has been committed; Cory has every legal right to his domain—which would be true even if his name were, say, LeBeau. But what is wrong with sharing a roof, cyber or otherwise? Americans are so territorial that way. In France, it is customary to have many generations living in the same household. (Ask Jean-Jacques, my freeloading 47-year-old brother, who's still living with *notre mère*.) Take your space, set up your e-mail account, and be happy.

**GASTON WRITES:** After fielding many of your questions both here and via e-mail, *je suis fatigué*, and I must, as you say here, regroup. I am going on sabbatical, part of which will be spent at Canyon Ranch in Arizona. I hear the mud treatments are wonderful. *Au revoir!*

## Yippee!

WE LOVE IT

### REGISTER TO VOTE ONLINE

Fill out the form at [ELECTION.COM](http://ELECTION.COM), hit Send, confirm your registration by mail, and you're totally guilt-free. Well, from the standpoint of your civic duty, at least.

### BLACKLIST BACKLASH

When the Oscar people ruled that films debuting online couldn't be nominated, **IFILM** [[ifilm.com](http://ifilm.com)] quickly had its short films open at AMC Entertainment's theaters. Hey, Oscar: Nominate *this*.

### ONE-STOP BUREAUCRACY

Need info on Social Security benefits, or some 1990 census data? It's all at **FIRSTGOV** [[firstgov.gov](http://firstgov.gov)], a new umbrella site for the federal government's 20,000 Web sites. The best part: It didn't cost taxpayers a dime.

### GOT THE MESSAGE

AOL has finally thrown its considerable weight behind a common instant-message interface. Why should you care? Well, eventually you'll be able to chat with anyone using any kind of IM software.

### CRIMSON CODE

Harvard Business School's *The Ten Commandments of E-Mail* hopes to elevate the Net's tone by listing the dos and don'ts of business e-mail. Harvard and God—is that enough clout?

## Yahooey!

WE HATE IT

### O.J., ALL DAY

Log on to **ASKOJ.COM** and, for a fee to be donated to charity, take part in an ongoing Q&A posting with former murder suspect O.J. Simpson. The end of Net civilization as we know it.

### OOPS, FORGOT!

British Telecom, thinking itself the developer of Web links, has decided to solicit royalties on linking technologies from certain Net providers. B.T., may we introduce you to Al Gore?

### KIDDIE PORN

Giving away a CD-ROM of kid-safe sites with children's meals made perfect sense to Burger King's U.K. division. Until, that is, it realized the discs were filled with the addresses of "blocked" porn sites. Spanked.

### PLEASE WAIT

You go onto AOL to check your mail, and *wham!* You're stuck downloading an update. A better way: Give us a heads-up one session in advance.

### LOW-COST LURKER

For \$60, SpectorSoft's eBlaster Internet activity recorder secretly monitors all Web sites visited by your kids, spouse, or employee, then e-mails a report to you. Finally, espionage on a budget.

**CLEAN SLATE** Will surfers take to the e-mail commandments?



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# WEB TRACKS



## Purple Passion

Tracey Ullman  
Takes On...  
Shopping

"I'M NOT AN ANOREXIC, 18-YEAR-OLD style nazi," says Tracey Ullman, articulating the point of view behind her site, **PURPLE SKIRT** [[purpleskirt.com](http://purpleskirt.com)]. "We're all in this together, trying to find ways to make ourselves look better and have fun with clothes."

Maybe that explains the appeal of the comedian-entrepreneur's site, which Ullman launched with partners Stephanie Come and Jeannine Braden in December. The trio geared the startup to fill the need for a "really good, eclectic contemporary [fashion] site" with a practical edge. "The bigger sites try to entertain too much," Ullman says.

Of course, Ullman couldn't resist bringing her trademark wit to the site by penning a regular column. And she's certainly one of the shopping masses. "I just bought a daybed from a Web site in Czechoslovakia....U.S. Customs held it up for five weeks. The Cold War is over, guys!"

To be sure, Ullman's no dilettante. "It's not like a celebrity site," she says. "I really am working on the day-to-day running of it." As she and her partners grow the business, Ullman gets to observe similarities and differences between British and American fashion sense: "Just as bad as each other. I beg people of both nations: No leggings after the age of six!"

—B.E.

FOR MORE OF OUR CHAT WITH TRACEY ULLMAN, VISIT [YAHOO.COM/EXTRA/ULLMAN](http://YAHOO.COM/EXTRA/ULLMAN).

Sarah

Sarah's Insurance Agent



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## THE SITES

### WEB TOPPERS

The most popular sites among Web surfers

SITE	UNIQUE VISITORS (IN MILLIONS)
1 YAHOO.COM*	48.0
2 MSN.COM	39.4
3 AOL.COM	32.1
4 MICROSOFT.COM	29.7
5 LYCOS.COM*	27.5
6 GO.COM	21.2
7 PASSPORT.COM	21.2
8 HOTMAIL.COM	20.1
9 NETSCAPE.COM	19.5
10 EXCITE*	17.6

### WHERE'S THE BUZZ?

The most-visited news/info/entertainment sites

SITE	UNIQUE VISITORS (IN MILLIONS)
1 ZDNET*	9.8
2 CNET*	9.6
3 ABOUT.COM	9.4
4 MSNBC.COM	8.9
5 WEATHER.COM	7.6
6 DISNEY ONLINE*	6.5
7 FREELOTTO.COM	6.4
8 SONY ONLINE*	6.1
9 IVILLAGE SITES*	6.1
10 LIFEMINERS.COM	5.8
11 WINOWS MEDIA.COM	5.7
12 UPROAR.COM	5.5
13 ESPN.COM*	5.4
14 SPEEOCLICK.COM	5.4
15 DIGITALCITY.COM	5.3

Media Metrix [mediametrix.com] measures the preferences of more than 50,000 Net surfers. "Unique visitors" represents the number of users who visited the site once during May. Apparent ties are the result of rounding.

\*Aggregated sites

## NET POLL

### GO, CHRIS

**Q:** Who would be a worthy successor to David Duchovny on *The X-Files*?

CHRIS NOTH	55%
JERRY ORBACH	20%
JIMMY SMITS	15%
OAVIO CARUSO	10%

Poll represents responses of 224 voters at [Hissfit.com](http://Hissfit.com) as of 7/17.

### CHATS

The best-attended get-togethers at Yahoo! Chat [[chat.yahoo.com](http://chat.yahoo.com)].

- 1 HANSON [6/26]
- 2 JOSEPHINE KAY, relationship expert [6/5]
- 3 BONNIE EAKER WEIL, relationship expert [6/1]
- 4 HANSON [6/7]
- 5 MICHAEL FRENEY, LCSW, relationship expert [6/29]

Rankings reflect June chat attendance.

### ART AUCTION ITEMS

The works generating the highest bids at ArtNet.com.

- 1 OEUX FEMMES, Pablo Picasso, linoleum print, \$29,400
- 2 TULSA PORTFOLIO, Larry Clark, 50 gelatin silver prints, \$20,900
- 3 COLOR NUMERALS: FIGURE 3, Jasper Johns, color lithograph, \$8,800
- 4 THE PACIFIC (FROM THE WAVES), Frank Stella, color lithograph, linocut, and screen print, \$6,930



5 FLOWERS, Andy Warhol, color silk screen, \$6,930

Rankings reflect June sales.

### PALM SOFTWARE

The top downloads for handhelds at Palm Gear H.Q. [[palmgear.com](http://palmgear.com)].

- 1 BIG CLOCK 2.7, enhanced clock features
- 2 LAUNCHER III, application launcher
- 3 QUICKSHEET 5.0, spreadsheet
- 4 HANOYSHOPPER—ENGLISH 1.7, shopping-list tracker
- 5 OIOOLEBUG 2.15, electronic Post-it notes
- 6 POCKETCHESS V.I.I., chess game
- 7 WHATZUP 1.02, front-end application for Datebook and To Do List databases
- 8 HACKMASTER 0.9, control panel interface for PalmOS
- 9 MINICALC 4.4, spreadsheet
- 10 FIREVIEWER 3.6, image viewer

Rankings reflect cumulative downloads as of 7/13.

## SEARCHES

The most popular queries on Lycos [[lycos.com](http://lycos.com)]...  
...and the most popular celebrity search queries at E! Online [[eonline.com](http://eonline.com)]...  
\*Rankings reflect searches conducted during the week ending 7/1.

- 1 POKÉMON
- 2 BRITNEY SPEARS
- 3 DRAGONBALL
- 4 WWF
- 5 TATTOOS

\*\*Rankings reflect June searches.

### RATINGS

The top-rated subjects at Deja.com.

- 1 EAT RIGHT FOR YOUR TYPE, diet
- 2 GILLIAN ANDERSON
- 3 SELA WARD
- 4 JERI RYAN
- 5 OS/2, PC operating system
- 6 GEORGE CLOONEY
- 7 THE CARBOHYDRATE ADDICT'S LIFESPAN PROGRAM, diet
- 8 KODAK DC280 ZOOM, digital camera
- 9 LINUX, PC operating system
- 10 MELISSA JOAN HART

Rankings reflect ratings during the week ending 6/25.

### CDs

Titles played most on computer CD drives, as tallied by COOB [[cdob.com](http://cdob.com)]...  
...and the titles listed most for swaps at MrSwap.com.\*

- 1 MARSHALL MATHERS LP, Eminem
- 2 SUPERNATURAL, Santana
- 3 OOPS...I DID IT AGAIN, Britney Spears
- 4 CALIFORNICATION, Red Hot Chili Peppers
- 5 MILLENNIUM, Backstreet Boys

...and the titles listed most for swaps at MrSwap.com.\*

- 1 BIG WILLIE STYLE, Will Smith
- 2 PIECES OF YOU, Jewel
- 3 OOKIE, Green Day
- 4 JAGGED LITTLE PILL, Alanis Morissette
- 5 TRAGIC KINGDOM, No Doubt

\*Rankings reflect play during the week ending 6/29.

\*\*Rankings reflect swaps during the week ending 6/30.

## BOOKS

The top-selling hardcover fiction titles at Amazon.com.

- 1 THE INOWELLING: THE BEAST TAKES POSSESSION (LEFT BEHIND, 7), Tim F. Lahaye, Jerry B. Jenkins
- 2 THE EMPTY CHAIR: A LINCOLN RHYME NOVEL, Jeffery Wilds Deaver
- 3 WHITE TEETH: A NOVEL, Zadie Smith
- 4 ANIL'S GHOST, Michael Ondatje
- 5 BEE SEASON: A NOVEL, Myla Goldberg
- 6 THE BLUEST EYE, Toni Morrison
- 7 EASY PREY, John Sandford
- 8 CRADLE AND ALL, James Patterson
- 9 THE BRETHREN, John Grisham
- 10 BEOWULF: A NEW VERSE TRANSLATION, Seamus Heaney

Rankings reflect sales during the week ending 7/5.



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# A plague of cell phones is upon us

*We're so busy worshiping devices, we haven't even noticed that they're ruling our lives*

THE RIGHT OF YOUR CELLULAR PHONE TO RING ENDS WHERE MY EARS begin. But no, this is not another complaint about the noxiousness of cell phones. It is a meditation on our willingness to be ruled by mechanical devices. We wouldn't stay married for long to any spouse who demanded our attention as stridently as the telephone does. Now cell phones have removed the illusion that we are free of their demands even when out of the house, the city, or the country.

Not as universal as cell phones, but just as addictive, are handhelds. These form a psychic umbilical attachment that goes well beyond scheduling appointments. The time is past when cell phones, PalmPilots, and pagers were a status symbol. Now they are a leash—a sign that other people have us on 24-hour call, like a dog. Handhelds are the most enslaving, since they have us yanking our own leashes.

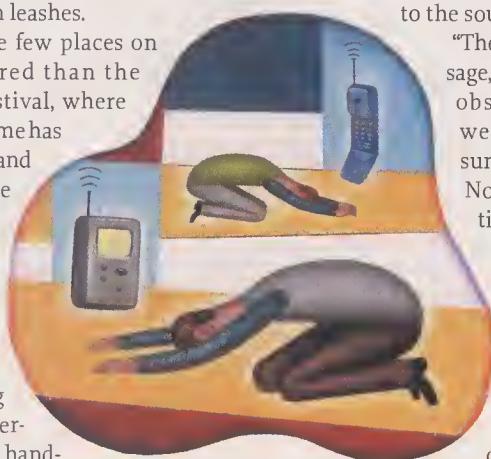
There must be few places on earth more wired than the Cannes Film Festival, where everyone except me has both a cell phone and a palmtop device and experiences a palpable joy in using them. Again and again during the 2000 festival I found myself watching while another person pulled out a handheld, tapped the screen with the little stylus, and checked his or her schedule. As an observer, the trick at such times

is to look not at the device but at the eyes. What you see is a kind of reverie state, a heedless joy.

The other person is ostensibly seeing if lunch is a possibility at 1 P.M. tomorrow. But the real purpose of the exercise is to hold communion with the device. *Tap, tap, Graffiti letters, arrow manipulation, tap...*

What is taking place is a small prayer to the soul of the machine.

"The medium is the message," Marshall McLuhan observed back when we were passive consumers of technology. Now the cyberrevolution has made us players, and the Process is the Purpose. The machine has become the keeper of our schedule, and therefore of our possibilities, our commitments, our lives. We consult it as we might ask an oracle for the most propitious date for a marriage.



Cell phones enforce the necessity of a conversation with self-selected strangers who find us wherever we are—because we let them. We are never out of contact. Phones have been ringing during screenings at Cannes for several years, but for the first time this year I got the sense that they were *desired* to ring. At one screening, a cell phone beeped, and its owner left the theater to hold a conversation. He returned, and five minutes later the phone rang *again*—proof that the offender wanted to receive a call, since he hadn't turned off the phone.

A week later, stopping in London after the festival, I was at the Royal Court Theatre for a performance of *The Country*, a 90-minute one-act play in which everything leads up to a monologue performed by the splendid actress Juliet Stevenson. In the middle of her speech, a cell phone went off three rows behind me—not merely ringing, but playing the "Colonel Bogey" march.

Patrons had been asked before the performance to switch off their mobiles. What fearsome hostility was this offender expressing by leaving his or her telephone switched on? What arrogance was involved in believing that any possible telephone call was more important than what the audience members had paid \$35 to hear?

Artificial intelligence is defined as machines' learning to think like humans. But these machines are Trojan horses, training us to behave like them. Even in these early days of the brave new cyberworld, machines are more successful at controlling us than we are at controlling them.

I was discussing the plague of cell phones at Cannes with my friend Anant Singh, the South African producer. "In our theaters in Durban," he said, "we have installed electronic shielding devices that block incoming calls, so the phones don't ring."

Why have such shields not been installed in every public performance space in North America? I think I know the answer: We are afraid. We have been broken to the leash and fear to offend our masters.

The time is past when cell phones, PalmPilots, and pagers were a status symbol. Now they are a leash

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3



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(1) Product not yet available

[[www.sony.com](http://www.sony.com)]

(2) Price not yet determined

[[www.sharp-usa.com](http://www.sharp-usa.com)]

(3) \$279 [[nike.com](http://nike.com)]



4



5



6

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**iTAG**

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**5 SON OF PLAYSTATION**

When Sony's PlayStation 2 arrives in the States later this year (it hit Japan in March), it'll have a smaller sibling nipping at its heels. The bitty Sony PS One will offer the same features as the original PlayStation, which has been around since 1995, but will be just one-third the size. No more craving for Gran Turismo and Final Fantasy when you're away from home—just take the wee console with you. As of this winter, a special adapter cable will let you connect the PS One to a mobile phone so that you can download games and information. A portable 4-inch screen will follow in 2001.

**PS ONE**

Price not yet determined, Sony  
[www.sony.com]

**6 HEAVY METAL**

It's just the thing to bring out the tonal nuances of "In-a-Gadda-Da-Vida": The Oracle CD Turntable's gleaming, 40-pound magnesium-aluminum body is a work of art that also dampens the unwanted vibrations that can hinder sonic clarity. The turntable further insulates your CD by clamping it down with a vacuum and isolating it on a spring-loaded suspension. Nice technology, but, more important, it'll look like an ultra-cool alien artifact when you add it to your sound system.

**CD TURNTABLE**

\$8,950, Oracle Audio Technologies  
[www.oracle-audio.com]

A dynamic black and white photograph of a male soccer player in mid-air, having just scored a goal. He is wearing a dark, patterned jersey and shorts, with white socks and dark boots. His right arm is raised in triumph, and his left hand is near his mouth, possibly shouting or cheering. The background shows the goal net and the dark sky.

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# TOUCHED BY THE NET

ORDINARY PEOPLE DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS ONLINE BY JEREMY CAPLAN



## A high school nets hope for Hispanics

*Troubled youths become techies at a pioneering Houston charter school*

**M**ONICA GONZALEZ'S FIRST SEMESTER OF HIGH SCHOOL CAME VERY CLOSE to being her last. Frustrated by a curriculum that didn't interest her and teachers who didn't seem to care about her, Monica (above) was ready to join the thousands of other Hispanic students in the Houston school system who drop out every year.

On the advice of her cousins, Monica decided to give education another try. She transferred to Houston's George I. Sanchez Charter High School, where educationally disengaged kids are given a second chance, and fell in love with computers—and with learning. Now a senior, Monica plans to study Web design and learn how to use the Internet to support her community.

Founded in 1973 by the **ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF MEXICAN AMERICANS** [[www.aamainc.com](http://www.aamainc.com)], Sanchez Charter is one of the few high schools in America offering students like Monica intensive hands-on training in computers and the Internet. As the digital divide grows and the gap between the knowledgeable and the uninitiated widens, Sanchez Charter is fighting hard to create opportunities in the technology industry for at-risk, low-income Hispanic youths.

"In the digital divide, Hispanics are dead last, behind African-Americans," says AAMA president Gilbert Moreno. "Hispanics today are three times as likely as white students to drop out of high school. We're trying to address both of these problems."

To ensure that Sanchez Charter students have the best facilities possible, the school partnered this spring with the Houston Technology Center to establish the Advanced Technology Center, where juniors and seniors will study everything from Web design to Windows NT. This year, Sanchez Charter's programming courses were taught for the first time by information technology consultants from **DNSCORP** [[www.dnsup.com](http://www.dnsup.com)], whose engineers designed the network for NASA's new space station. When word spread about the excellence of the program and the quality of students' programming skills, companies such as Lockheed Martin and Enron Corp. lined up to hire interns from the school.

Having excelled in the program's debut year, Monica was hired as an intern by DNScorp, where she worked this summer on standardizing network configurations of workstations. At a school assembly announcing internship awards, Monica was stunned to learn that DNScorp had chosen her. "When they announced that I had won, I was shocked and very excited," Monica says. J.L. Trahan, president and CEO of DNScorp, says that Monica was an outstanding intern: "She has a real dedi-



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## TOUCHED BY THE NET

cation to learning, and she demonstrates skills that any employer would value."

Yet, despite the AAMA's success at creating an innovative program, Moreno says that financial support has been hard to come by, even within the Hispanic community. "The response from Hispanic businesses has been disappointing," Moreno says. Federal support has also been weak, and procuring grants for small high school programs is far from easy. "The congressional funding formulas make it difficult for minority community nonprofits to win

**'I used to work at a movie theater, and now I'm working for a great technology firm. It's amazing how far I've come'**

federal discretionary grants," Moreno says. "We're not looking for a handout, just a chance to compete."

Given the shortage of skilled technical workers in Houston and across the U.S., Moreno considers high school programs an important tool in filling a vital employment niche. "We have tremendous young talent in our inner cities that we're not taking advantage of," says Moreno. "The Census Bureau says that the Hispanic community will grow from 32 million today to 100 million in 2050, and as a result, it's going to be an increasingly vital component of the workforce. Hispanics represent 11 percent of those employed in the United States but only 4 percent of workers in IT occupations." In addition to the programs to help high school students, Moreno and the AAMA are working on wiring and linking Hispanic groups nationwide.

The future looks bright for Monica and her newly computer-savvy classmates. With solid programming and Web design skills under her belt, Monica will have no trouble finding rewarding and well-paying work. And the confidence she has gained may well be her biggest reward yet. "I used to work at a movie theater, and now I'm working for a great technology firm," Monica says. "It's amazing how far I've come."

## SMALL TOUCHES



### ASSISTING NEW ARRIVALS

[[www.new2usa.com](http://www.new2usa.com)]

For those setting foot in the U.S. for the first time, there's a helping hand at **NEW2USA.COM**. Finding basic information about real estate, transportation, and cultural expectations can be difficult for immigrants; this site helps newcomers adjust. In addition to providing an easy-to-understand introduction to U.S. laws, New2Usa has the lowdown on visas, green cards, and citizenship tests. Other recent topics included American restaurant etiquette and popular styles of dress in the workplace. Chatrooms and message boards let you share experiences with others from your native country or with fellow immigrants who are also navigating new waters.

### HOSTING WITH HEART

[[hosp.org](http://hosp.org)]

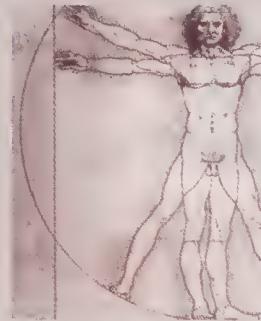
Boston is considered by many to be the hospital capital of the U.S. Every year, more than 200,000 patients travel to that city for medical treatments ranging from cancer care to heart surgery. But the high cost of an extended stay in a Boston hotel can impose a financial

burden on patients' families and friends. **THE HOSPITALITY PROGRAM** addresses the problem by offering free temporary residence for families, whether they've traveled from New York or New Guinea. In 1999, 140 volunteer hosts provided 7,750 nights of housing for some 800 guests. The program's Web site features information for prospective donors and volunteers, as well as a guide for families who are planning a trip to Boston. The site also provides lots of helpful information for anyone looking to establish a similar program elsewhere.

### LIVING LEONARDO

[[www.mos.org/leonardo](http://www.mos.org/leonardo)]

The smartest man of all time lives at **LEONARDO**, a Web site at the Boston Museum of Science dedicated to the unparalleled Renaissance artist, architect, engineer, and scientist. The site



not only gives you concise history lessons about the genius who painted the *Mona Lisa* and doodled his ideas for a flying machine, but it also lets you check out Leonardo's famous backward handwriting: Type something in and see it magically transformed into his distinctive script. Based on a 1997 museum exhibit, the site serves as an excellent teaching tool for all ages. You'll even find reproductions of drawings that detail Leonardo's inventions, including a thread cutter, catapult, and spaceship-like tank. And if you're inclined to sketch on your own, follow the lessons and you'll be drawing landscapes like the master in no time.

### OPENING THE LAB DOOR

[[awsem.com](http://awsem.com)]

To support young women's interest in technology and the sciences, Advocates for Women in Science, Engineering & Mathematics has established a Web site, **AWSEM**, where young women who are interested in exploring technological or scientific careers can find useful links, articles, and advice.

As of 1990, only 16 percent of scientists, 6 percent of engineers, and 4 percent of computer scientists in the U.S. were women. But according to a National Science Foundation report, school-age girls consistently match or surpass boys' competency in science and mathematics (as measured by the Scholastic Aptitude Test, achievement tests, and classroom grades).

This site is devoted to reducing the disconnection between competence and career choice. And to help encourage young women to achieve their potential, the site helps link girls with professional role models, often scientists, who can assist young women in advancing their interest in the sciences.

# INCREDIBLY USEFUL SITES™

THIS MONTH'S MOST PRACTICAL DESTINATIONS BY RICHARD BUTNER



## Identify Wildlife

CAN'T TELL A RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER from an acorn woodpecker (above)? No problem—visit the Advanced Bird Finder at [ENATURE.COM](http://ENATURE.COM) and you'll know in seconds. The finder lets you choose from various shapes, sizes, and colors to identify your bird. At this portal, you'll also find field guides to plants and animals of North America, each one with its own advanced finder, and a weekly guide to the night sky. You'll never be stumped by a wildflower, butterfly, or constellation again.

## Stash Your Links

WHEN YOU'RE OBSESSIVE ABOUT BOOKMARKING favorite sites, you end up with an unwieldy catalog of links. Worse than that, unless you tediously copy those links to your laptop (or other PCs you use), they're stranded on your home computer. That's where **BACKFLIP** [[backflip.com](http://backflip.com)] comes in. It creates a Yahoo!-style directory of saved links available from any PC with Net access. You don't need to install any software, and it's free.

## Check Investments Fast

DON'T DECIDE WHERE TO PUT YOUR MONEY based on information at just one financial site. **INVESTMOVE.COM** will point you to data about the stock or fund of your choice at nearly every financial site on the

Web. Enter a ticker symbol and InvestMove creates an instant page of links to popular sites (Morningstar and Quicken) as well as lesser-known sites (Raging Bull and Insider Trader), where you'll find price charts, performance reports, and analyst opinions for your stock.

## Place Classifieds

WHEN YOU'RE SELLING YOUR HOUSE OR posting a job opening, an ad in the local rag is just a start. It also pays to spread a wider net and advertise further afield. Instead of calling classified departments one by one, it's a lot faster to head over to **ADVERTISE123** [[advertisel23.com](http://advertisel23.com)], the site that simplifies ad placement in hundreds of newspapers and online publications across the country. Of course, you'll still have to pay for the ads.

## Send Criticism

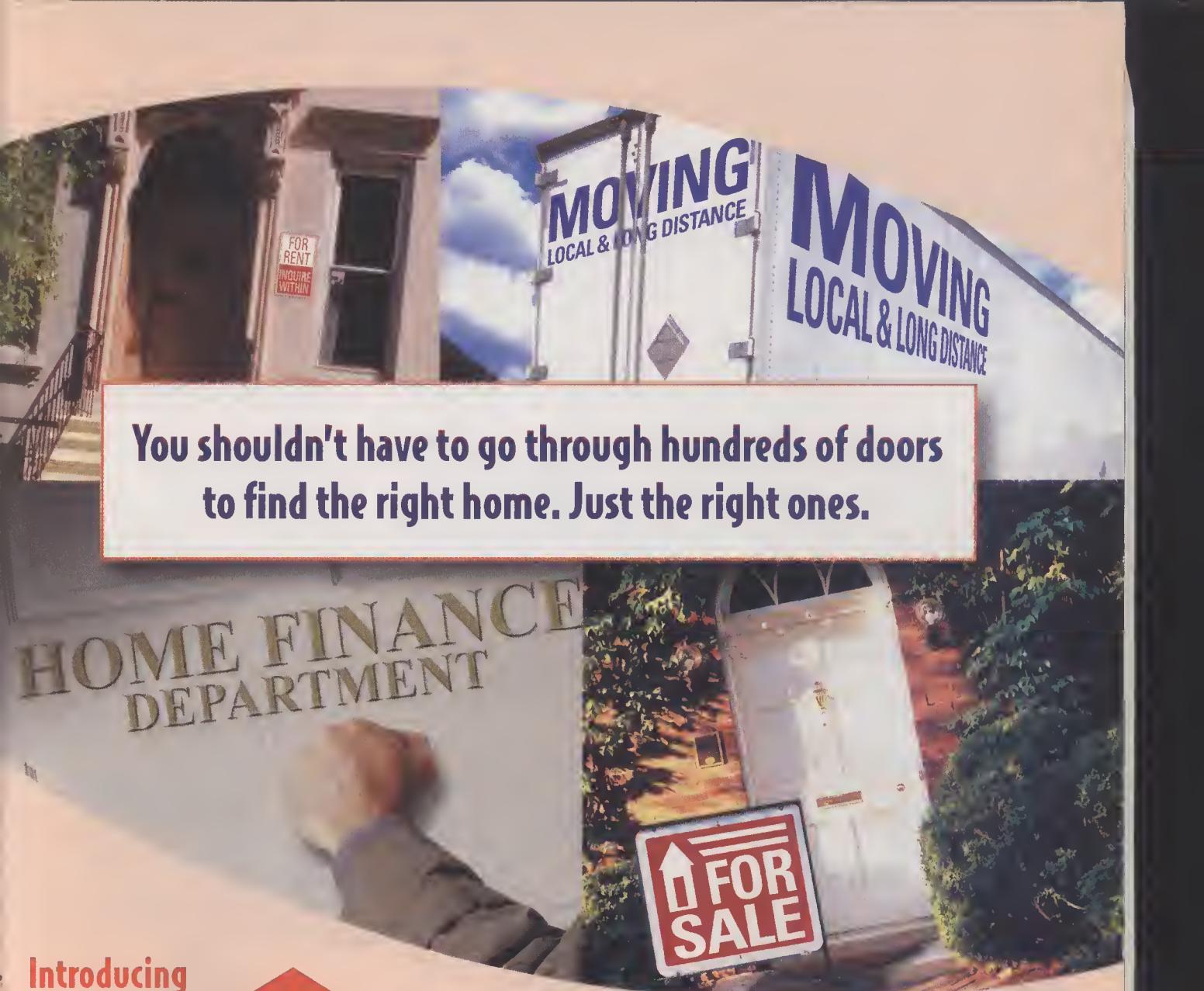
SOME FOLKS WHINE ABOUT EVERYTHING, while others just stew, fret, and keep it to themselves. If you've got a genuine beef, avoid ulcer-inducing internalization and try **ECOMPLAINTS.COM**. Here you can dash off diatribes when the airline keeps you on the tarmac for eight hours or your coffeemaker explodes. The site will make sure your complaint is forwarded to the proper contact at each company, and in many cases you'll get a response. Even if you don't, the listings let you know which companies to avoid.

## Get Theater News and Reviews

HERE'S YOUR VIRTUAL BACKSTAGE PASS TO complete theater information. Check out **THEATERMANIA.COM** for all things thespian. Pick your "scene" (major metropolitan area, including London and Toronto) to find out about current runs, and you'll get articles, reviews, show times, ticket info, and even lists of nearby restaurants. Once you've seen a show, put on your critic's hat to praise or pan on TheaterMania's message boards.



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## Find Flight Times

TRAVEL HUB SITES ARE GREAT WHEN YOU need to book a flight or a rental car, but if you just need to know when to pick up your friend flying in from Boston, you might want to check [FLIGHTARRIVALS.COM](http://FLIGHTARRIVALS.COM) instead. Select an airport or airline and you'll see listings of arrivals, departures, and delays—just as if you were staring at an airport monitor. It beats digging through more-complicated airline and travel sites.

## Track Celebrities

NEXT TIME YOU'RE IN LOS ANGELES, SKIP THE Universal Studios tour and find the real stuff at [SEEING STARS IN HOLLYWOOD](http://SEEINGSTARSINHOLLYWOOD.COM)



[[seeing-stars.com](http://seeing-stars.com)], the "ultimate guide to Hollywood and celebrities." You'll get listings of places where the rich and famous eat, shop (see Kelsey Grammer, below left), and play, as well as locations of grave sites, museums, and other landmarks. Hey, use this reasonably. We don't need any more stalkers.

## Locate a Thrill Ride

THE MORNING COMMUTE ISN'T SCARY enough for you? Search the [ROLLER COASTER DATABASE](http://ROLLERCOASTERDATABASE.COM) [[rcdb.com](http://rcdb.com)] for more excitement (in a much safer setting). Coaster nuts can enter a ZIP code and the number of miles they're willing to travel to be dropped, spun, and shaken. The site covers North America, and aficionados can search by category to find, for example, all the stand-up rides or indoor coasters. Looking for the longest ride? Try the Beast at Paramount's Kings Island in Ohio.

## Land Internships

YOU SPENT THE SUMMER FORGETTING everything you learned during spring semester. Now it's time to hit the books again—and sign up for a fall internship. Search [INTERNWEB.COM](http://INTERNWEB.COM) by state or by the field you're interested in, and you'll find internships that range from MTV to Amnesty International, with information on pay, hours, and the application process. Dad's not a CEO? Best friend isn't a Hollywood player? Use an internship to make contacts and get your foot in the industry door.

## INCREDIBLY USEFUL DOWNLOADS

**Untie Tongues** Don't waste time clicking over to a translation site. Don't risk a paper cut with a dictionary. With **BABYLON** [[babylon.com](http://babylon.com)], you're just a keystroke from an instant translation of almost any word, expression, or abbreviation in any application; just right-click on a word to translate it from one of 12 languages into English. But wait, there's more: You also get currency, measurement, and time zone converters that work the same way—click on an amount in francs to get the dollar amount, or the Celsius temperature for the Fahrenheit equivalent. Now, how much would you be willing to pay? No need—it's free.

**Get Headlines** You've got better things to do than surf the Web for news. Instead, let it come to you. **NEWSDART** [[newsdart.com](http://newsdart.com)] scans the sites you choose, looking for the keywords you select. When it finds something of interest (you can direct NewsDart to scan entire stories or just headlines), it sends you the headline and you click to open the story in your browser. You can use NewsDart to follow your favorite teams, keep tabs on things affecting your portfolio, or even find out when certain items are posted for auction. *Free.*



**Learn Bridge** VW Beetles are back. Bell-bottoms are back. Heck, the '80s are back. So we're certain your parents' favorite card game will soon make a return. **EASY BRIDGE** [[thegrid.net/shan/EasyBridge.htm](http://thegrid.net/shan/EasyBridge.htm)] lets you learn without fellow players, which means you get a jump on future competition. You get to select from three experience levels, and if you're a beginner you can opt to have the program comment on its actions to explain the rationale behind each bid and play. You can also choose from different scoring methods. *Free.*

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# OLD WAY | NET WAY

COMPARING THE TRIED-AND-TRUE WITH THE NET-AND-NEW BY DAVID SHEFF

## Buying a last-minute gift

### OLD WAY

1 The day before a surprise birthday party for a colleague, I realized that I hadn't bought a present. Ran out to the store. It was not what I wanted to be doing, but the guy has been sort of depressed and a group of friends decided he needed cheering up.

2 Dashed in and out of Saks, Neiman Marcus, and Macy's, and came away empty-handed—not because there weren't ample choices but because nothing seemed exactly right.

3 Returned home, dejected, planning to venture out again later.

**TIME ELAPSED:**  
2 hours

**COMMENTS:** Had I known what I wanted to get, I could have been a more efficient shopper.

### NET WAY

1 Got the inspiration to try the Net, although overnight delivery (at most sites) is actually two-day delivery. At **AMAZON.COM**, for example, it takes a day to process an order and another day to fill it.

2 From experience (see last month's Old Way/Net Way), I've come to rely on next-day delivery of groceries from **WEBVAN** [[webvan.com](http://webvan.com)], so I checked the site. Expediency may have made me less picky, but I decided on a gift: a bottle of good Champagne and a copy of the Dalai Lama's book *The Art of Happiness*.

3 Placed the order and selected a delivery time the next day. The gift arrived at 11 A.M., and I was at the party by noon. The gift seemed to strike the perfect balance.

**TIME ELAPSED:**  
6 minutes online

**COMMENTS:** Webvan recently merged with HomeGrocer.com. The combined company expects to serve 13 metropolitan areas by the end of 2000.



► **WINNER: NET WAY** Despite Webvan's limited gift selections, I found something suitable.

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# Laundering clothes



## OLD WAY

**1** Decided to tackle the problem of weekly (or more frequent) trips to the laundry.

**2** Normally, I drive to the laundry for the drop-off and pickup, but I noticed the scurrying trucks of a local cleaner that offers pickup and delivery service. Placed a call to Marin Cleaners.

**3** My clothes were picked up at home that afternoon and dropped off, cleaned and pressed, three days later.

**TIME ELAPSED:** Doing the pickup and delivery myself: an hour a week. Using the telephone to arrange the pickups and deliveries: about 5 minutes a week.

**COMMENTS:** The savings in time and gas, combined with the added convenience, were well worth the slightly higher charge.

## NET WAY

**1** Searched the Net for laundry services and found **HUMMINGBIRD HOME DELIVERY** [[hummingbird-delivery.com](http://hummingbird-delivery.com)]. It serves the South Bay area, not Marin County, where I live.

**2** The promising-sounding **CLEANERS ON LINE** [[www.cleanersonline.com](http://www.cleanersonline.com)] got my hopes up, but it turns out to be a site for people working in the laundry, dry cleaning, and fabrics industry.

**TIME ELAPSED:** 40 minutes surfing with no positive results

**COMMENTS:** For now, I'm stuck with placing a phone call to arrange pickup and delivery.

## ► WINNER: OLD WAY

There are a few laundry pickup services online, but you may not find one in your area.

# Applying to college

## OLD WAY

**1** Since this is the season to start the process, I'll relay my son's experience from exactly one year ago. Soon after Nick began his senior year in high school, he called dozens of schools to request applications, and tried to fill out one per weekend.

**2** Many colleges accept the Common Application, which was available from his guidance counselor. Still, most colleges require a supplementary application and additional essays.

**3** To apply to University of California campuses, only one application is required.

**TIME ELAPSED:** A day to a day and a half per application

**COMMENTS:** The Common Application is the way to go.

## NET WAY

**1** At **EMBARK.COM**, Nick was able to apply to three schools simultaneously. Whereas the Common Application doesn't address the needs of individual colleges, Embark includes the required supplements.

**2** The **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PATHWAYS APPLICATION CENTER** [[www.ucop.edu/pathways/appctr.html](http://www.ucop.edu/pathways/appctr.html)], where Nick filled out a single application for all the U.C. campuses he was considering.

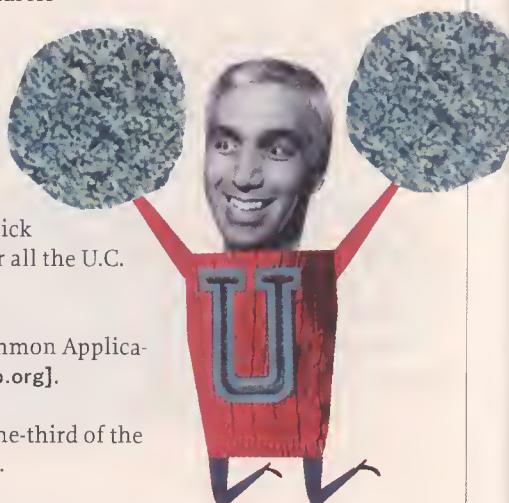
**3** The online version of the Common Application is located at [[commonapp.org](http://commonapp.org)].

**TIME ELAPSED:** It took about one-third of the time to apply and submit online.

**COMMENTS:** Lots of Net Way options.

## ► WINNER: NET WAY

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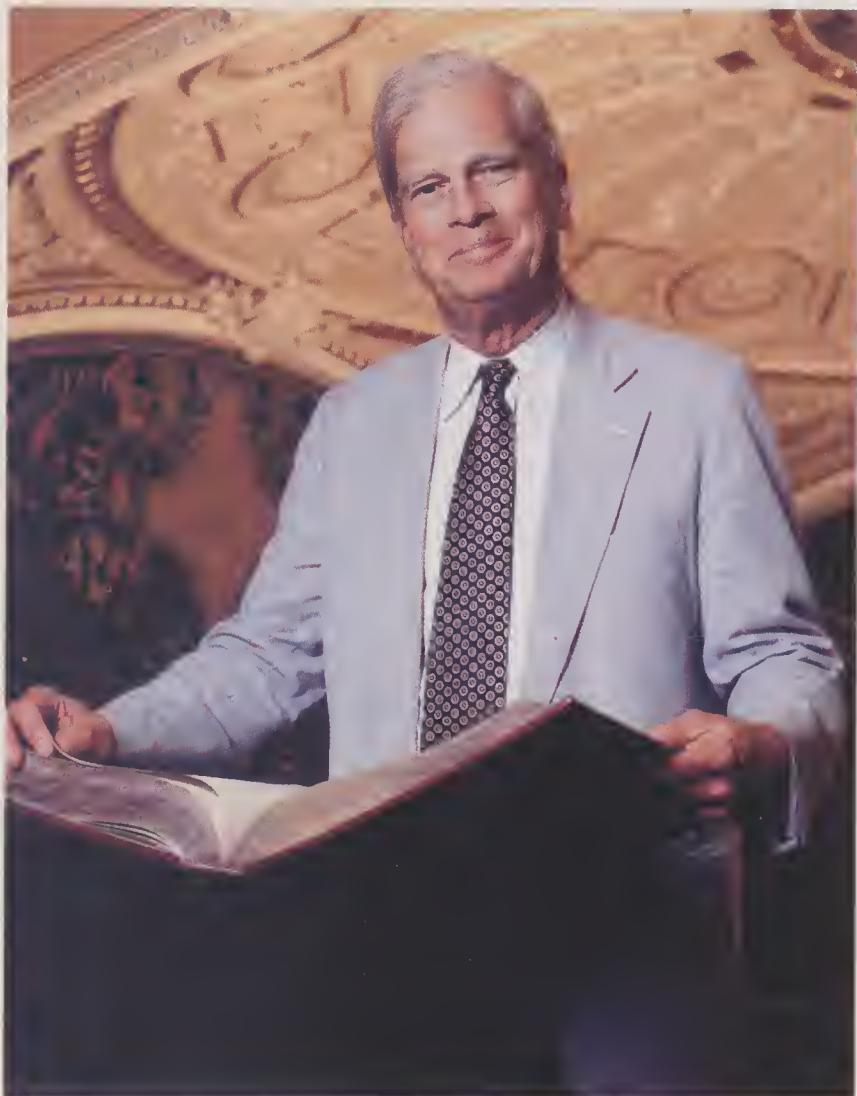
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# Librarian of Congress

*A chat about Jefferson and the Net with James Billington, the nation's chief archivist*

In 1800, President John Adams approved legislation appropriating \$5,000 to purchase "such books as may be necessary for the use of Congress." The beginnings of a collection arrived by ship from a bookseller in London: 740 volumes and three maps. These were stored in the Capitol Building until a fire in 1814 destroyed what

was, essentially, the nation's first library. A new one was created with the purchase of Thomas Jefferson's private library, which—at 6,500 volumes—was the largest collection of books in America.

Two hundred years later, the Library of Congress encompasses three buildings that house approximately 119 million items, including books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, pieces of music, and motion pictures. Another thing has changed: You no longer have to go to Washington to use the library—it's available to anyone with Internet access.

Wiring the vast collection has been the passion of the nation's 13th Librarian of Congress, James Billington, 71, a historian specializing in Russian culture who was appointed in 1987. The result of all that wiring is, as Billington calls it, "the national digital library," which he touts as "the leading provider of high-quality free educational material on the Internet."

Previously, only scholars could gain access to the historic works of Adams's day. Now, as Billington notes, "a hundred people on their computers can simultaneously use the draft of the Declaration of Independence." He spoke with us about the changing role of libraries in the digital age in general as well as about **THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS** [[www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)] and the new site of the Library of Congress, **AMERICA'S STORY FROM AMERICA'S LIBRARY** [[americaslibrary.gov](http://americaslibrary.gov)].

**Y-LIFE:** This interview will be part of an issue that looks at how America is using the Net today. So let's go back to Thomas Jefferson, who was instrumental in establishing the Library of Congress. What would he have thought of the Internet?

**BILLINGTON:** Jefferson would have embraced it. Beyond being a lover of books, Jefferson loved technology. He himself was an inventor, creating a machine for reading that rotated five books at a time, for example. He would surely have embraced the Internet both for its technological advancement and for the social good inherent in the technology.

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution talks about promoting "the useful arts and sciences," a wonderful expression that includes invention and intellectual creativity as well as books. There was a

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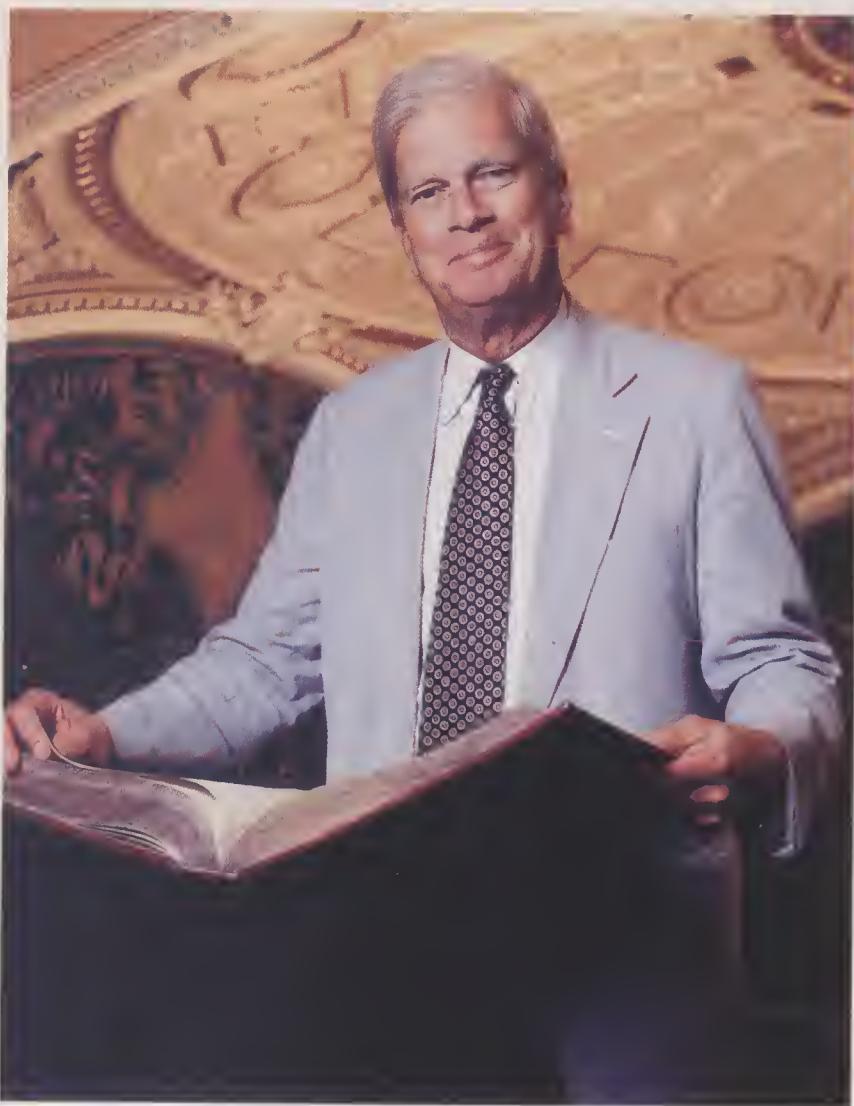
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# Y-LIFE INTERVIEW

NEWSMAKERS IN THE ONLINE COMMUNITY BY DAVID SHEFF



was, essentially, the nation's first library. A new one was created with the purchase of Thomas Jefferson's private library, which—at 6,500 volumes—was the largest collection of books in America.

Two hundred years later, the Library of Congress encompasses three buildings that house approximately 119 million items, including books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, pieces of music, and motion pictures. Another thing has changed: You no longer have to go to Washington to use the library—it's available to anyone with Internet access.

Wiring the vast collection has been the passion of the nation's 13th Librarian of Congress, James Billington, 71, a historian specializing in Russian culture who was appointed in 1987. The result of all that wiring is, as Billington calls it, "the national digital library," which he touts as "the leading provider of high-quality free educational material on the Internet."

Previously, only scholars could gain access to the historic works of Adams's day. Now, as Billington notes, "a hundred people on their computers can simultaneously use the draft of the Declaration of Independence." He spoke with us about the changing role of libraries in the digital age in general as well as about **THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS** [[www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)] and the new site of the Library of Congress, **AMERICA'S STORY FROM AMERICA'S LIBRARY** [[americaslibrary.gov](http://americaslibrary.gov)].

**Y-LIFE:** This interview will be part of an



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tremendous belief in the ability of technology to influence the future.

**Y-LIFE:** What exactly can the library provide online that's different from what others are providing?

**BILLINGTON:** Besides what you expect to find at a library, we've put online the whole of Jefferson's manuscripts. We put his original draft of the Declaration of Independence. You can read it, zoom in, and explore it in great detail. Even if you come to the Library of Congress, you can't handle the original; it is too precious. But you can "handle" it online. You can see the corrections made by Franklin and by Congress. You can see the Founding Fathers' minds at work and see the process of creating the document. The digital version is sometimes easier to use than the original.

The first map of Washington, by Pierre L'Enfant, the French planner who designed our nation's capital, has penciled notes by Thomas Jefferson. Well, you couldn't read them on the original document. But we have enhanced the notes on the digital version so that anybody can read them online. It's limitless what we can put online.

**Y-LIFE:** Then why do we still need the brick-and-mortar—or marble—buildings?

**BILLINGTON:** A library will have material specifically related to the people in the community. There is an out-of-date view of libraries as mausoleums, but they are living and breathing and changing. In them are reference librarians to help individuals. In them gather people who have common purposes: to learn and explore an issue, to create a project. In addition, many libraries provide Net access. Two worlds come together in a library: the world that is out there on the Internet and books that are only a shelf away.

**Y-LIFE:** Might books themselves become obsolete?

**BILLINGTON:** I don't think so—I hope not, that's for sure—but there are people who disagree. What I've found is that people use both: the Net for research material from varied sources and books for the depth that only books provide. The collaboration doesn't stop there. A reference in a book can be explored on the Web, which can then lead to another book. Often you find that the Web has secondary sources but not the primary material, which leads you back to the library.

**Y-LIFE:** But won't all books be online someday?

## 'Two worlds come together in a library: the world that is out there on the Internet and books that are only a shelf away'

**BILLINGTON:** I don't think everything will be online, though more will be than is now. Not everything that is important is going to get digitized. Even if it were, I would be concerned that in the rush of modern life there will be a generation someday that doesn't know the sheer joy of being alone with a book on a rainy day. I hope that never goes away. To me, it seems part of the essence of being human. But the Net can supplement what you find in all those books. At the Library of Congress, our priority is to put online the original volumes of books, original letters, and manuscripts that aren't otherwise available. If we do our job right, we can make the material more compelling than ever.

**Y-LIFE:** Compelling how?

**BILLINGTON:** Everyone talks about the Net's interactivity. Libraries have always been interactive, but think about the new possibilities! Online, we can bring together more-varied materials, including multimedia materials, that are easy to access. You don't need special collections and equipment.

In the past, libraries had recordings, for instance. They were great repositories of maps, photographs, and films. But all those materials have never been as widely used as books. Now it's easy to find and use all this material. There's enormous educational potential. It's what excites me about the Library of Congress online more than anything. It is the kind of thing that pushes the Net in deeper, more-expansive directions, so that it doesn't just promote short attention spans and commerce.

On our site, you can find everything from pictures of a game called baseball being played in England in 1760 to songs about baseball, including one written by the wife of Lou Gehrig, "I Can't Get to First

Base with You." There is a 1743 map of West Africa showing where slaves were brutally brought from, and a digitized broadside offering a \$100 reward for an escaped slave. There are the recorded voices of the last survivors of slavery. There are oral histories from Norwegian immigrants and pictures of their mud huts on the Great Plains.

The point is that there are elements that were previously inaccessible by most people. You can put them together and get intimately involved in whatever story interests you. It's fun, and you emerge with a personal human relationship to the past. What begins with what is essentially an inhuman medium—zeros and ones—becomes passionately human. It's the kind of thing that makes learning come alive.

**Y-LIFE:** Yet as more and more of us use the Internet for research, what happens to librarians? Might they become obsolete in the information age?

**BILLINGTON:** The fact that we call it the information age and not the knowledge age proves how much we need librarians. Yes, the technology in our hands has given us more information—vast amounts. But information isn't in itself useful. In order for the wealth of material that's online to serve useful human purposes, it has to be turned into knowledge. Only when it becomes knowledge can it lead to wisdom and creativity, which is what we're after. And that's the role of the librarian in the Information Age: The librarian is a knowledge navigator. Implied in that idea is the need for human mediation of all the digital information.

**Y-LIFE:** But people are already doing much of the navigating *without* mediation.

**BILLINGTON:** What are they finding? Lots of raw data, much of it unusable. In addition, the information out there may or may not be accurate. How do you know? In the print age, the publishing industry filtered information. Generally, editors did a good job presenting information and checking its veracity. You learned who you could trust. On the Net, whereas some sites have editors, most don't. Much of the digitized information is meaningless. Our job is to help people weed through it, discern the good stuff, find the useful stuff, and avoid the useless and inaccurate. The librarian's job is to help provide the judgment that can turn information into knowledge. We can also help with the next step, using



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the knowledge so that we can progress as individuals and as a race.

**Y-LIFE:** With everything from filters to agents, won't browsers and Web sites evolve to the point that there will be less of a problem with information overload and the veracity of online information?

**BILLINGTON:** Some of that will happen, but it's not a priority to make sure it does. Most of the investment in the Net, and therefore most of the technological progress, is in the delivery systems. They're pretty good by now. There has been much less attention to the quality of the content. There have to be better ways to find reliable and relevant material.

Human mediation does it better than any filter or agent. Librarians are just one type of knowledge navigator. Others include teachers and parents and uncles and aunts and whomever. In some cases, kids are navigators for their parents. There's more to it, though: making information online compelling and useful. The Library of Congress sites are designed to do that, to provide an enormous array of credible, important, multimedia information in a way that is extremely useful to lots of people. Using new technologies, we can do it in more ways for more people than ever.

**Y-LIFE:** In our magazine's Old Way/Net Way column, we have compared students researching term papers online with those doing it at their libraries. The results are mixed, but when the Net way works better, which it often does, we hear from angry and resentful librarians across the country.

**BILLINGTON:** There are a lot of things that can be done more efficiently on the Net. In fact, the [number of] times the Net wins is probably going to gradually increase. But one technology never replaces another. When television came in, people said that there was no longer a role for radio. The radio industry has shifted its focus, but it still plays an important role. The idea that there is some kind of inherent tension between one technology and another is overstressed. Yes, some librarians are threatened, but more of them are embracing the new technology. Most of them are interested in expanding their own horizons and the horizons of the libraries in which they serve.

The Library of Congress is the de facto national library of the United States. In the United States, we embrace the idea of adding the new without subtracting the

old. The new immigrant does not replace the old resident. Similarly, new technology does not replace the old when there is value in the old. They combine and make our world better—richer, more varied.

**Y-LIFE:** There's one technology that hasn't replaced another for you: You once said you are not fond of e-mail. Why?

**BILLINGTON:** *Fondness* implies a liking, a preference. E-mail helps us to communicate more quickly and efficiently. I do use it. But I reserve the word *fondness* for things I prefer. I prefer handwritten letters to e-mail. They tend to carry so much more beyond the communication of information. Letters more than e-mail include the expression of personal feelings and humor.

**Y-LIFE:** Isn't that a stereotype? Some e-mail messages can be very expressive.

**BILLINGTON:** Yes, e-mail can also contain those things, but it tends to be a form of instant communication without as

### 'Online, we can bring together more-varied materials, including multimedia materials, that are easy to access'

much emotional investment. In addition, it doesn't encourage the use of the English language. We're going for speed and efficiency, not deep, sophisticated expression.

As far as I'm concerned, it would be sad if e-mail replaced letters completely, because of what we'd lose. Similarly, I worry about chatrooms and instant messaging because our oral language is destroyed in them. One of the many steps by which humanity moved from primitive forms of communication to more complex forms was the invention of the sentence. In chatrooms, sentences are endangered. The inexactness of the language that is used in chatrooms and quick messaging creates the potential for misunderstandings. In person, even inarticulate conversation is accompanied by mannerisms and tone and other things that qualify the conversation. Online writing almost always lacks the kind of discipline that is used in letters.

**Y-LIFE:** Tell us about the library's newsite.

**BILLINGTON:** We have two sites. There is the Library of Congress, our basic site. It has more than the 3 million-plus original materials in American history and culture, with another 2 million in the pipeline. There is also a system that gives all kinds of information that is searchable about the Congress and where bills stand, how your legislators have voted, and the complete *Congressional Record*. We hope that the site is relevant and useful and easy to navigate.

What we added on our 200th birthday this year is a new Web site called America's Story from America's Library. Like the other one, it is free, but this is specifically designed for fun and education. The slogan is "Log on...play around...and learn something." There are scavenger hunts and interactive games that have real intellectual content. You can take an imaginary trip through America at different times in its history. Our goal is for everyone who wants to learn to have a place to learn.

**Y-LIFE:** What about the large number of Americans who have no Internet access?

**BILLINGTON:** We are very concerned about the digital divide. The whole point of our digital presence is to make more material more available and increase our services so that everybody can get it. It's why we have tried to make the material interesting as well as important: The digital divide relates to content and training as much as to accessing equipment.

To help more people get access, we've trained more than 200 teachers and librarians. They in turn train others when they go back to their communities. We are in the process of getting classroom teachers to evangelize and train people to use the library online. All of that is designed to help overcome the digital divide.

Libraries that are wired help the problem too. Our doors are open to the community for people who have no access to technology at home. The digital divide is a very serious problem; unless more of this concerted effort is made, the Internet will not realize the potential it has to overcome the gaps that currently exist between those with full access to the benefits and possibilities in our society and those who are less fortunate.

Imagine the wealth of information—no, *knowledge*—at your fingertips when you have the world's libraries on your desk and your local library down the block.



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# Getting Expert Advice

**K**NOW-IT-ALLS TEND NOT TO BE POPULAR, BUT THEY SURE can come in handy. You've got a question, let's say, and you don't want to spend a lot of time finding the answer, because *Survivor* is on in five minutes. What do you do? You can always set the VCR and hit the books. Or you can go to one of the growing number of Web-based expert sites and find someone who is smarter than you—at least in this particular instance.

Using an expert site is like sitting next to the class genius and plying him with enough food to guarantee a stream of answers. Only now you don't have to spring for pizza. Most online experts will answer your questions for free. Sometimes they'll do it to earn points that can lead to cash prizes; in other instances they simply enjoy sharing their knowledge of dig-

ital photography or the Beatles. If you need tutorials that are more in-depth, how-to sites such as **LEARN2.COM** offer searchable libraries of step-by-step instructions.

But can you really trust a stranger to recommend a stereo or explain nuclear physics? The best sites, such as **ASKME.COM** and **EPINIONS.COM**, use elaborate mechanisms to encourage—if not quite ensure—quality. You can check out contributors' past work, see how others rated their answers, and search detailed profiles. These safeguards help, but they aren't perfect. For all the right-on answers we received, we got plenty of duds too.

Expert sites can be a powerful resource if used wisely, as a jumping-off point for your own research. We know that means work. But less of it. Pick the brains at these Gold Stars.

## AND THE WINNERS ARE...



### Best Overall

**ASKME.COM**  
[askme.com]

You shouldn't need an expert to find an expert. AskMe's design is simple but smart: Browse the Yahoo!-like directory to zoom in on specialists in a huge variety of fields. Categories are extremely narrow, so you don't have to worry about I.M. Pei fans answering your question on medieval architecture. You can see all the topics an expert has signed up for, so you know if your forensic scientist also fields queries on teen relationships. The search engine is excellent; it lets

you find experts and archived answers by keyword and other criteria, such as response time or rating. All these tools, combined with a large pool of enthusiastic experts, make AskMe your best bet for getting questions answered quickly and knowledgeably. (For an overview of the competition, see "Report Card," page 84.)

### Best Product Advice

**EPINIONS.COM**  
[epinions.com]

Buying that new DVD player can be tricky when you've got 50 models to choose from.

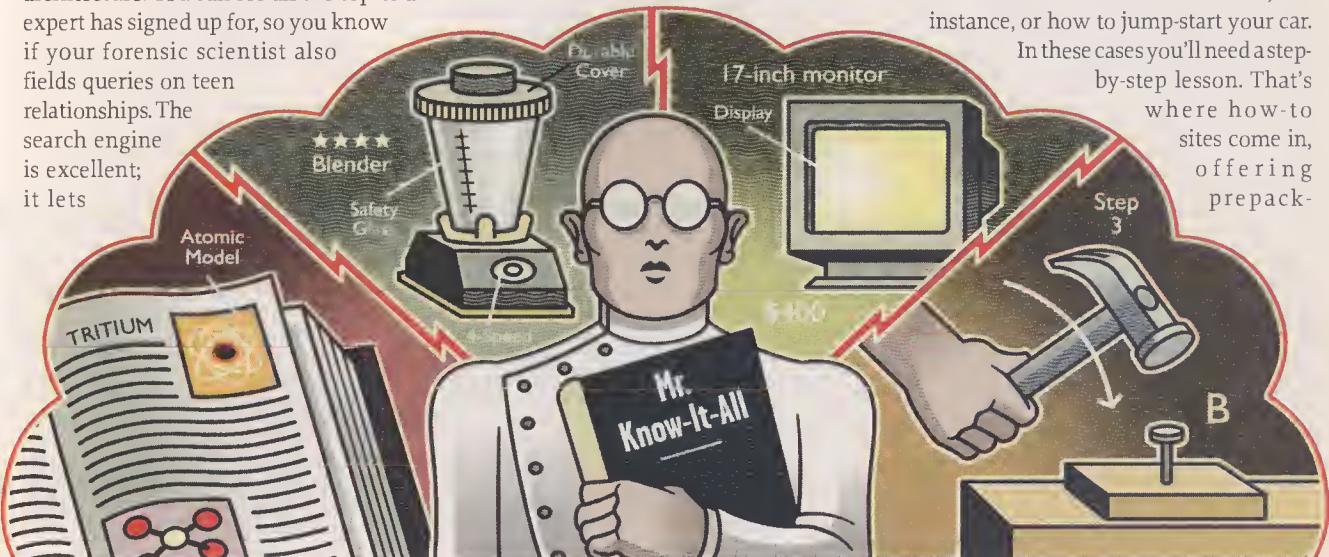
To the rescue: a host of sites linking you to reviews provided by consumers who have used the products. The best of this breed is Epinions, where reviewers are rewarded with Royalties (redeemable for cash) for crafting thorough, insightful reviews in hundreds of categories. (For more on product advice sites, see "A Closer Look," page 85.)

### Best How-To

**LEARN2.COM**  
[learn2.com]

Sometimes the expertise you need can't be summed up in an e-mail. Maybe you want to learn the Heimlich maneuver, for instance, or how to jump-start your car.

In these cases you'll need a step-by-step lesson. That's where how-to sites come in, offering prepack-



PETER HOOTON

## GOLD STAR SITES

aged tutorials on a host of common and not-so-common tasks. Our favorite is Learn2.com. Its many guides, on subjects from changing your oil to building a snowman, are detailed but never intimidating. Instructions are clear and well written; illustrations help guide you through some complex jobs. Better still, the tutorials do more than get you from point A to point B: They consider every variable (don't perform the Heimlich maneuver on an infant, for example) and offer appropriate alternatives. Each how-to is loaded with tips and tells you what tools and how much time you'll need.

## Best Computer Q&A

### EXPERTS EXCHANGE

[experts-exchange.com]

This site is like having your own 50,000-

person help desk. If you need to know about cross-country skiing or *Sex in the City* you're better off elsewhere, but if it's computer-related advice you seek, look no further. The site is highly active; experts are quick to respond and know their stuff. Search the database of answered questions and you'll find detailed solutions to a variety of technical questions, ranging from XML to Microsoft Office to troubleshooting keyboard problems. Although Experts Exchange is free, it uses a points system that takes some getting used to. You earn 75 points for signing up, five for each day you're active, and more for filling out surveys and providing feedback. Save your points, as you'll need them to ask questions and look at archives. Trust us: They're points well spent.

## Best Computer How-To

### SERVICE911.COM

[service911.com]

Shocking as it might sound, not every computer product boasts a first-rate instruction manual. You've read every word and still have no idea how to install that printer, retrieve e-mail on your PDA, or send a fax from your PC? Service911 can help. Its free tutorials provide step-by-step instructions on installing and using all sorts of hardware and software. You'll learn how to add more RAM, download MP3s (from both sites and newsgroups), and get started on America Online. Like Learn2, our other how-to Gold Star Site, Service911 relies on illustrations and clear instructions to get you through the

## REPORT CARD Grading the Top Q&A Hubs

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EXPERTCENTRAL.COM [expertcentral.com]	<b>B-</b> Profiles can be searched by keyword, but not as efficiently as on AskMe, which also boasts more experts. You can't e-mail multiple experts simultaneously.	<b>B-</b> Since you can hand-pick experts, free answers are often, but not always, on target. If the question is complex, however, the expert may propose a fee instead of answering it outright.	<b>B+</b> Experts must sign up for specific categories, and ratings are supplemented by user comments. If you decide to pay an expert for services, you're covered by the site's money-back guarantee.	<b>C-</b> You can keep your question confidential.	<b>B-</b>
ABUZZ [abuzz.com]	<b>C+</b> You can't query specific experts but must select one (or more) of 30 "circles" or interest groups. Most of the circles are so broad (Web, health, teaching) that it's a hit-or-miss process.	<b>C+</b> Our ratios weren't too pretty. Often we'd get just an answer or two for every dozen experts queried. Most answers we did receive were cursory, though a few were first-rate.	<b>C+</b> Abuzz analyzes each user's interaction with the site to steer queries to those most likely to respond. But the system is shaky, as our response rates showed. And the overly broad categories don't help.	<b>B</b> Slick looking, with lots of statistics on who is—and, more often, who isn't—answering your questions. Can bypass the circles if an expert's profile lists an e-mail address (most don't).	<b>C+</b>
KNOWPOST [knowpost.com]	<b>C</b> More accurately, they find you—maybe. Questions aren't posed directly but posted on subject-specific boards. There's little activity on many, and you can't post to more than one at a time.	<b>C-</b> Any user can answer any question, so KnowPost has a certain chatroom feel to it. We got some helpful responses and a lot of not-so-helpful commentary.	<b>C</b> KnowPost tries to discourage low-quality answers by deducting points from users who get poor feedback. But this system punishes only the worst responses, not the many mediocre ones.	<b>D+</b> Don't have a question? You can post riddles and polls. These features only strengthen the chatroom likeness. More useful would be a way to search archived questions by keyword.	<b>C</b>

HOW WE RATED THE SITES: First, we devised some questions on subjects ranging from mountain bikes to running a small business. Then we looked for answers at each site. Could we search an archive of answered questions? Search for and query a particular expert? A whole group? We looked at the quality and quantity of the answers. How helpful were they? How often did our questions go unanswered? Finally, we looked at what each site did to foster—or hinder—accurate responses. Testing took place in May and June 2000; grades do not reflect any features or upgrades that have been added since then.

## GOLD STAR SITES

task. A nice bonus: Some jobs, like recording video to your hard disk, are explained via streaming video. Beginners will appreciate the many tips (don't use a battery-powered screwdriver when removing your PC's case; the static electricity inside can be dangerous). Experts will appreciate having a new place to send beginners.

### Best Directory of Expert Sites

#### ASKA+ LOCATOR

[vrd.org/locator]

Have a question about the NASA space program? Sure, you can ask it at one of the Q&A hubs and hope for the best. But wouldn't you rather talk to a real astronaut than someone who has read a lot of Arthur C. Clarke? The good news: You can. Many educational, corporate, and even military sites have a page where you can direct a question to a professional and get an insider's insight. The bad news: These pages are often buried within large sites. Happily, the Virtual Reference Desk's AskA+ Locator does a terrific job of rounding up these resources. It describes each service—from Ask the Optometrist to Ask a Hurricane Hunter—and tells you who runs it, how quickly questions are answered, and if there is anything you can do for more-immediate assistance. So should you ever find yourself in a semi-colon crisis, for example, you'll know to skip the Grammar Lady's Web site and go straight to her telephone hot line.

### Best Expert Bookmarks

#### BLINK

[blink.com]

Picking someone's brain is all well and good, but sometimes all you really need is an expert's list of bookmarks. Services such as CLIP2 [clip2.com] and Blink let users organize their favorite links by topic and share them. So if you're looking for the best sites on marathon training, there's no need to spend hours with a search engine; instead, check out the sites that marathon runners like to visit. Blink wins our Gold Star for its variety and usability. While other services feature long lists of Britney Spears sites (from "expert" Britney Spears fans, mind you), Blink's Public Library boasts favorites in many more-substantive areas, such as engineering and physics. And the Yahoo!

like directory makes it easy to get right to the topic that interests you.

### Best Paid Experts

#### EXP

[exp.com]

With so many sites offering free advice, why should you even think of paying? For one thing, your question might require some time-consuming research. Or maybe you need a service such as copyediting or legal advice. EXP is designed for users who are looking for more than just a quick answer and who want to be sure that the expert they hire

is right for the job. Profiles are extremely detailed, describing services rendered, turnaround times, and fees. Many experts pay to have their credentials verified so that you can be sure your hotshot lawyer really did go to Yale. Submit your query and candidates write back with proposals. You can view them all on one page, compare bids, and ask for more details if you're undecided. EXP handles the credit card preprocessing (it keeps 20 percent of the fee); you're charged only after the work is done. And if you don't want to pay, say so: Many EXPerts will answer basic questions for free, hoping to create some goodwill.



## A Closer Look Product Advice

If you buy a banana and it doesn't taste right, you throw it out and buy another. If you buy a car and it doesn't work right, life as you know it will never be the same. Get up to speed on glitches, missteps, and lemons at sites where real-life owners write about their experiences with camcorders, stereos, lawn mowers, golf clubs, and more.

#### DEJA.COM

[deja.com]

**Advice:** Ample user reviews cover products from automobiles to razors (93 reviews for Gillette's Mach3 alone). But the focus here is more on numbers than on words. Reviewers rate different aspects of a product on a scale of one to five and then give an overall score. But because people adhere to their own, subjective grading standards, the ratings aren't nearly as helpful as full-blown reviews.

**Extras:** Links to Usenet postings about a product are a nice touch. You can compare specs and average ratings for different products side by side. Readers can note when a review was helpful, flagging it for others.

**The Verdict:** Handy as a first step in your product research. Compare product specs, check the ratings to weed out obvious lemons, and when you've narrowed down your choices, head to Epinions for in-depth evaluations.

#### EPINIONS.COM

[epinions.com]

**Advice:** More than you'll ever want to know about toaster ovens, digital cameras, VCRs, and just about anything else you can spend your hard-earned money on. Epinions encourages—and gets—lengthy, detailed evaluations. Each page view nets the reviewer between one and three cents, so it literally pays to be thorough.

**Extras:** When you find reviewers you like, you can add them to your Web of Trust. In future searches, their reviews will jump to the top of the list, followed by reviews written by those they trust (got that?).

**The Verdict:** You may need to take a continuing education course to understand how Epinions works, but no matter: The main thing is that it does work. Unless your uncle owns the factory, don't buy any product without coming here first.

#### PRODUCTOPIA

[productopia.com]

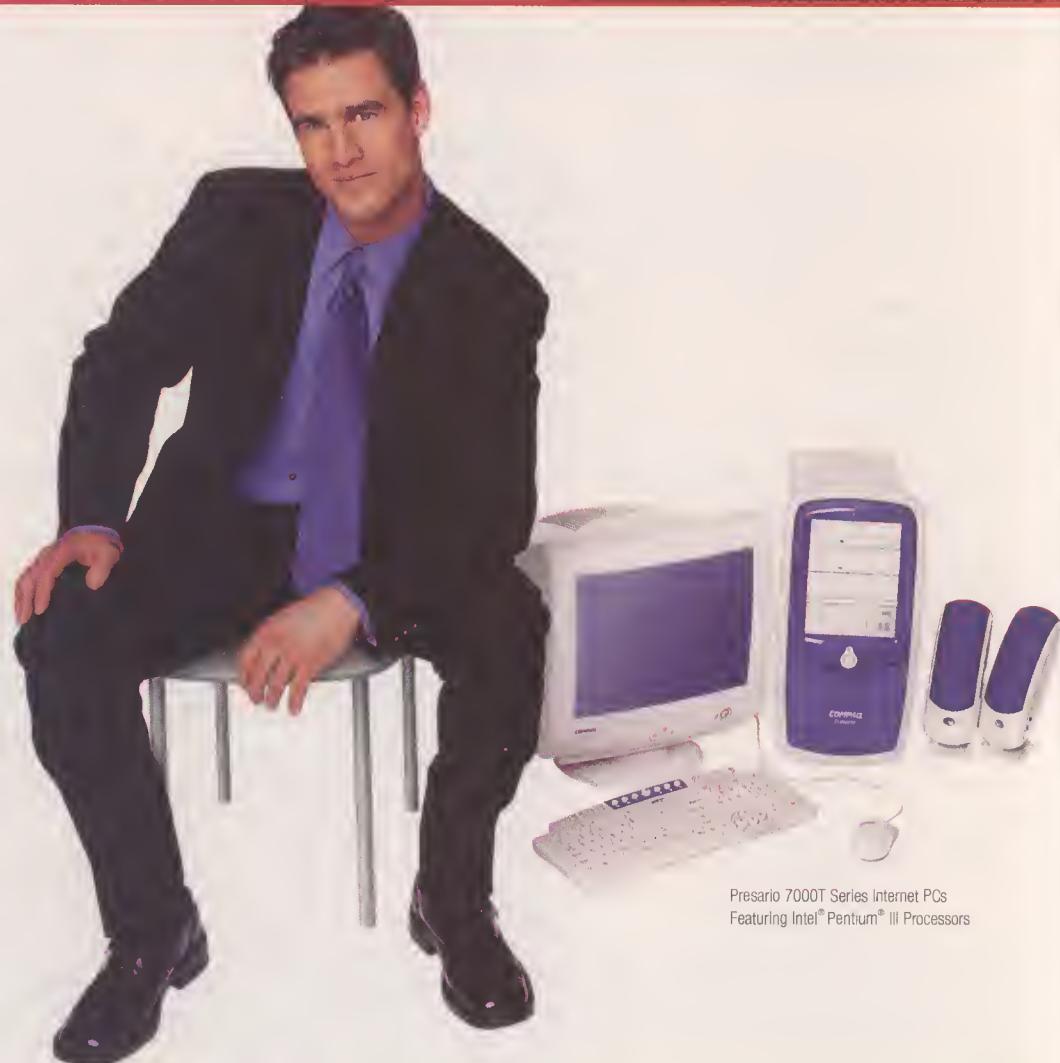
**Advice:** User reviews play second fiddle to Productopia's own picks. Unfortunately, the site looks at only a handful of items within each category, and most products don't have a single user review. There's no mechanism whereby readers can flag helpful reviews, but considering the brevity of most comments, such a feature wouldn't be much use anyway.

**Extras:** Productopia's buying guides offer some handy shopping tips, and each product category has a link to MySimon, one of the Web's best comparison-shopping sites. The links to off-site reviews are nice—and often necessary.

**The Verdict:** A disappointing site that ranks a distant third. Worth a visit if you're in no hurry to buy and want to be as thorough as possible in your research. But if you don't make it here, don't sweat it. You'll be fine with just the big two.



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JBL Platinum Speakers with Digital Audio Port

Compaq CV535 15" Monitor (13.8" VIA)

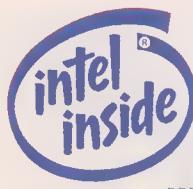
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YAHOO!  
INTERNET LIFE  
ANNIVERSARY  
ISSUE 9/00

# THE INTERNET'S *2nd* GENERATION

BY JON KATZ

As the Net continues to evolve, we as a society are confronted with the biggest decision we will have to make: Do we preserve the Net or try to change it? Do we attempt to make cyberspace conform to literal space, or do we acknowledge that it is fundamentally different?

**I**t's practically upon us. The days of the digital wild frontier, when hackers and cybergurus ran amok and parents thought a modem was some kind of musical instrument, are coming to an end. The Net is already a place where Grandma e-mails her brood, where companies sprout like weeds, where regulators and moral guardians are moving in to make the territory safe for businesses and family values.

What particular issues will the next generation of

this extraordinary new culture encounter?

Let's acknowledge that technology is inherently unpredictable. Anytime someone tells you what it's going to do and how people will react, keep one hand on your wallet and bolt the door.

Remember, nobody—nobody!—foresaw the rise of the Internet, or predicted the worldwide significance of networked computing. But if we can't foresee precisely how the Net will evolve, we do have some clues—instincts, maybe—about some of the issues with which an increasingly wired world will contend.

No hiding behind polls, pundits, or alleged experts this time: These Second Generation ideas come strictly from my own gut, based on a decade of Web browsing, Net surfing, and technology mulling.

The biggest single decision society has to face, therefore, is this: Do we preserve the Net or change it? We can try to make cyberspace conform to literal space, investing it with the same laws, traditions, values, and restrictions. Or we can acknowledge that cyberspace has fundamentally different values and traditions, and try to maintain them. Almost everyone who lives in this century will, as the Second Generation Net emerges, have a stake in the outcome.

So let's start with freedom.

The Net will have less of it. More Web sites will restrict profane, hostile, or copyright-sensitive speech. There will be more policing, with varying degrees of effectiveness. More online companies will hire lawyers to write warning letters about copyrights and patents and to file libel suits. More sites will require membership, which means users will be held more responsible for what they say. All this means less flaming and trash-talking on the Net, though it will also probably mean less experimentation, creativity, and diversity.

Businesses want safe and secure environments in which to operate; government wants to oblige them (note the FBI's Infrastructure and Computer Intrusion Squad being deployed around the country). Parents and educators are, as they like to say, concerned.

As the Net becomes more mainstream, it will offer less of the freewheeling communication style that was a hallmark of the first years of cyberspace. It will remain freer than other realms but will be less let-'er-rip than it is now. Free speech online will continue to be a raging political debate, but bet on megacorporations, through law and regulation, to take control. With staggering budgets and platoons of high-powered lawyers, publicists, and lobbyists, they usually get the kind of environment they want.

What else lies ahead for the Second Generation?

## COPYRIGHT

Copyright law was designed to protect creators from uncontrolled reproduction of their work, without permission or payment. This seemed comparatively simple when we were talking about books. It was difficult and expensive to copy a book, thus easy to enforce copyright laws. But the Internet is, in many ways, a giant Xerox machine. It's simple not only to reproduce copyrighted work but also to distribute it around the globe at essentially no cost.

Technology is at war with the very idea of copyright. Adolescents on iMacs and PCs have access to more archived information than high priests and monarchs had just a few generations ago. If you wonder about the future of copyright law, just ask to see your kid's music playlist.

Artists have the right to be paid for their work, and stealing is wrong. But let's be honest: For copyright to mean anything on the Second Generation Internet, it has to be either redefined or eliminated. Lawyers and Napster fanatics no doubt have differing opinions on which one it will be.

## UNIVERSAL ACCESS

The Second Generation Internet will become markedly less geeky, for better or worse. Women will continue to go online in huge numbers, demonstrating much more passion for community than for software or hardware. So will the very young and the very

old. Universal access to computing—perhaps the most crucial moral issue facing those building the Second Generation—will slowly become a reality, following landmark decisions by companies such as Ford Motor Co., Delta Air Lines, and Intel Corp. to give employees and their families personal computers and free or discounted Net access.

This will have significant political and social consequences, as computing finally becomes available to working-class and underclass kids.

Even the most despotic dictatorships will have little choice but

## THE NET HAS EVOLVED AS A FREER SPACE, MORE INVENTIVE AND UNRESTRICTED, THAN ANY IN HISTORY. FREE SPEECH, INDIVIDUALISM, EXPLORATION, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FLOURISH

to accept networked computing if they want to participate in the global 21st-century economy. In fact, Net access is slowly becoming a litmus test of whether or not political regimes are enlightened members of the global economic community. Unwired nations will be excluded from mainstream commerce. Since the Net is ultimately uncensorable, free speech will continue to infect the planet. So will dissent.

Almost as happily, we will also see the end of cable wiring during the Second Generation, as wireless computing—a move in the right direction if ever there was one—also becomes universal. Kiss those plugs and cords good-bye. But remember that the cardinal rule of technology is that there is always a trade-off. With convenience and ubiquity comes loss—diminished privacy, blurred boundaries between home and work, less plain old peace and quiet.

## ARCHITECTURE

It's no longer possible to pick up a newspaper without reading about a copyright, patent, or libel flap or a lawsuit in the online world.

All of this is not about music and movies; it's about architecture.

More than politics or ideology, perhaps the primary reason the Net has remained so free is its architecture, the greatest protector of free speech online and the reason issues relating to software distribution and hardware are taken so seriously in cyberspace.

Relative anonymity, tools of encryption, decentralized distribution, multiple points of access, the irrelevance of geographical boundaries, the challenges to conventional policing, the lack of systems to identify content—those features designed by the far-sighted wizards who built the Net three decades ago have made it difficult, if not impossible, to control speech in cyberspace.

Much of this architecture will clearly be refurbished or redesigned as the form and function of the Second Generation Internet evolve to incorporate more commercial, community, and eventually even political functions. Anonymity will become more difficult to achieve. We'll see fewer points of access and new forms of policing to patrol some of the wild frontier.

## HANDHELD APPLIANCES

This is my riskiest prediction, admittedly, but also the one I feel the most confident about. Much of the computer industry is obsessed with the notion that smaller, portable devices represent the future of computing. I don't agree. Some of our greatest minds are holed up in think tanks working on ways to bring you sports scores and stocks while you're on the john. Some handheld computing devices will stick. The basic Palm looks like a sure bet to replace the Filofax. The digital-music player is surely here to stay. So is the digital wireless phone. But Americans may be reaching their limit when it comes to amassing gadgets, invariably with short-lived and expensive batteries, that nobody will help them maintain or repair and that are of dubious usefulness to boot.

## GAMES AND SEX

With tens of millions of Americans now regularly playing games online, certain characters are so valuable that they're routinely auctioned on eBay for thousands of dollars. Dismissed for years as addictive, obsessive, and decivilizing, gaming has spawned a vast literature of narratives and graphics with complex layers, links, and communities. The Second Generation Internet will demonstrate that the new forms of role-playing and storytelling offered by many video games aren't destroying culture; they *are* culture.

## ANONYMITY WILL BECOME MORE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE. WE'LL SEE FEWER POINTS OF ACCESS AND NEW FORMS OF POLICING EMERGING TO PATROL SOME OF THE WILD FRONTIER

What's more, sex on the Web, which helped establish early public perceptions of Netizens as pornographers, matchmakers, and exhibitionists, will continue to become more legitimate and less controversial. Millions of Americans now routinely talk about sex and explore their sexuality and proclivities in chatrooms and on mailing lists, as well as investigate and ponder new medicines, therapies, and techniques. Despite media and political hysteria, there are no signs that the young have been ruined or corrupted wholesale by the liberation of sexuality online.

Like e-trading, sex on the Net is here to stay.

## CORPORATISM

Giant conglomerates (consider AOL Time Warner, AT&T/MediaOne, Yahoo!, and Microsoft) will shape this next Net generation, for better or worse. They are the strikingly different successors to an extraordinary flowering of individual expression.

This may well be the next big brawl; the Second Generation Net will pit individuals against such behemoths. These technocompanies are too big, have too much political power, control too much access and information and software.

Political activism in the Second Generation will be influenced

by these companies—and by the growing opposition to their power. Consider, for example, the free-software and open-source movements, formed in response to Microsoft's domination of computing software. They've morphed into global, commercial, social, and technological movements, and they're only the beginning.

## CODE

Programming code is a concept very few Net users ever have to (or want to) think about. In the Second Generation Net, that will change. Netizens, lawyers, journalists, and lawmakers will be talking a lot about code, something they use every day online but rarely have to stop to consider.

But on the Net, programming code determines both law and content. Code relates to concerns such as free speech, pornography, copyright, and patent—online, code shapes all of these. In the First Generation Internet, programming writers were de facto lawmakers. They decided how the Internet would operate, how free it would be, how much privacy it would or wouldn't have, the degree to which anonymity is preserved and tolerated, and the extent to which access is permitted.

For the Second Generation Internet, the *real* lawmakers and politicians are stepping in, drawn by fights over the free distribution of music, movies, and other intellectual property, and by the growing need to define commercial law online. So it becomes increasingly critical for the public to understand who writes the code, who controls the people who write the code, and how code regulates the movement of information. Every question relating to the Second Generation Internet will flow from that reality.

The much-publicized flaps between the music industry and free-software sites such as MP3.com and Napster will seem like minor skirmishes as the magnitude of the Internet's challenge to intellectual property becomes more obvious to almost every American business or institution with a stake in owning information. Code makes the movement of all this information possible.

Will the Second Generation Internet transform the world? The history of technology says no, at least not as much as many think. Periods of great technological advance—the Enlightenment, the Industrial Revolution—have generally been followed by periods of retrenchment, of “pushback,” even of moral outrage and unease.

We will take a while to adjust to the evolving implications of the Internet. Humanity can't absorb so much change—financial, social, political, personal—at this rate indefinitely. People will want a breather, time to consider the implications before we plow ahead. The slowing of dot-com mania is perhaps the first sign of more cautious and considered growth in the Second Generation.

This doesn't mean there won't be plenty of change, but life as we know it may not look quite as different as all the hype would have us believe. The Second Generation Net won't usher in an unrecognizable existence.

Contrary to expectations, journalism won't vanish, even if it does become less influential. There will still be books printed on paper, movies shown in theaters, live sporting events and performances. No matter how intensely they are promoted, handheld appliances will not dominate our lives. Humans, seeking to reestablish some of the distinctions between home and office, leisure and work, will discover that we can wait until we pull into the driveway to check our e-mail. We might even be better off.

**JON KATZ** can be reached at [jonkatz@slashdot.org].



# THE BIG PICTURE

BY RON BEL BRUNO & MEGAN GERRITY

76 million

Americans are active Net users; they surf and e-mail regularly. That's a 33 percent increase over last year's estimates. Meanwhile, 135 million people—almost one-half the U.S. population—enjoy Net access through schools, libraries, and other shared facilities.

*Cyber Dialogue; NetRatings*

Is the Net, at last, an accurate mirror of the American population? It's getting there, but it has a long way to go on several fronts. Since we checked in a year ago, the gender gap among surfers has all but closed (according to Cyber Dialogue, the breakdown is 51 percent male versus 49 percent female<sup>1</sup>). The medium's users remain racially disproportionate and have become a bit less affluent, and the average surfer is a little older (39 compared with last year's 37). Overall, the numbers show that the Net has become a part of everyday life.

76

percent

of Net users are Caucasian, underscoring the medium's nagging and profound digital divide. Despite the highly visible efforts of minority entrepreneurs online to close the gap, these forays are apparently slow going; this year's racial breakdowns are practically identical to last year's.

*Cyber Dialogue*

38 percent

of U.S. Net surfers have at least a bachelor's degree, continuing the downward trend that began in 1996, when 47 percent of surfers were at least college graduates.

*Cyber Dialogue*

27 percent

of households are relative Net newcomers, having begun to use the medium in the 12 months prior to March 2000.

*Borrell Associates*

60

percent

of all surfers are married or partnered—a contingent essentially unchanged from last year (61 percent). In 1997, however, 71 percent were married or cohabitating couples.

*Cyber Dialogue*

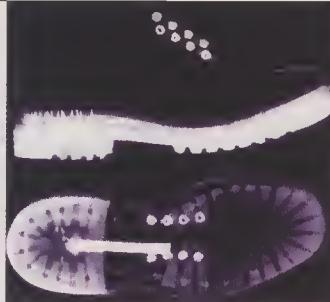


**ANNIVERSARY ISSUE**

# 70 percent

of U.S. surfers polled in April 2000 had made an online purchase in the previous 90 days. Last year, that number was 74 percent; in April 1998, it was 47 percent. Clearly, e-commerce continues to be the road more traveled.

*Greenfield Online*



**66 percent** of surfers who download music from the Net have not paid for the downloads, nor do they expect to pay in the future.

*Greenfield Online*

**2.1 billion** pages (85 percent of them U.S.-based)

make up the Web as we know it. Is that a lot? When you consider that in October 1999, a "mere" 755 million pages were counted, it's safe to say the Net is experiencing a major growth spurt.

*Cyveillance*

**333.5 million** e-mail accounts

were on record in the U.S. as of March. In 1998, 77 million accounts were counted. No wonder we're getting more spam.

*Messaging Online; Jupiter Communications*

**63 percent** of Net surfers polled—believe it or

not—actually like emoticons. :-P.

*Vault.com*

**1,746 e-mails** of a personal

(nonwork) nature were sent to the average U.S. surfer last year. Researchers say that number will reach 2,059 by the end of this year.

*Jupiter Communications*

**46 percent** of American workers who surf the Net use it on the job for personal reasons.

*Angus Reid Group*

**48 percent** of engaged couples polled have

used the Web to gather information on weddings and to plan their wedding.

*NPD Group*



# 23.5 months

(or 729 days...17,500 hours...1.05 million minutes...63 million seconds) will be spent by the average surfer online in his or her lifetime. Of course, this doesn't include time spent organizing Cindy Margolis or Prince William photo galleries.

*Cyber Dialogue*

# 54 million

surfers—more than one-fifth of the entire U.S. population—have had the roots of their family trees excavated online, whether by a family member or by their own efforts.

*Pew Internet & American Life Project*



**55 percent** of online gamblers are women.

*NetValue*

**650 thousand** new jobs were created last year as part of the Net content and infrastructure industries.

A total of 2.5 million people are employed—more than in the insurance, communications, and public utilities industries combined.

*University of Texas-Austin*

**5,400 jobs** in the Net biz were cut between January and June 2000 due to the dot-com slowdown.

*Challenger, Gray & Christmas*

# 44 percent



of surfers polled have taken part in an online auction in the past year. In 1998, only 31 percent had done so. Men make up 58 percent of auction participants.

*Greenfield Online; Net Value*

# THE Y-LIFE POLL

**H**ow do Americans *really* use the Net? Y-Life asked Harris Interactive to conduct a Web-based survey focusing on surfers' online habits, experiences, and attitudes. Of those polled, the survey revealed that...

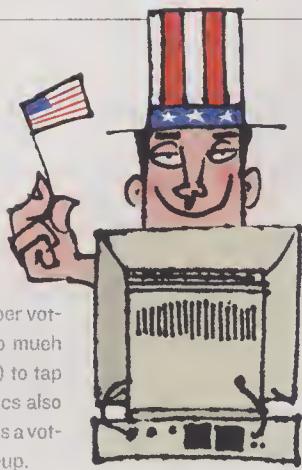


**50 percent**

think that having cybersex is synonymous with infidelity. Women (60 percent) are more inclined to consider virtual relations "cheating." Men come in at 41 percent. African-Americans don't necessarily agree; only 37 percent consider cybersex a breach of trust in a relationship.

**32 percent**

say that the Net will aid their November voting decisions. Men (40 percent) are much more likely than women (24 percent) to tap the Net's political resources. Hispanics also show exceptional interest in the Net as a voting tool; 46 percent give it a thumbs-up.



**12 percent** have caught their partner viewing online porn; the rate almost doubles among female respondents aged 18 to 34.



**76 percent** agree that e-mail has put them in better touch with friends and family. An exceptionally large segment (87 percent) of wired women aged 55 and older are keeping in touch online. At 84 percent, African-Americans report many benefits from the e-mail revolution, as do both affluent and retired surfers.

**41 percent** have met a new friend online. (So much for the Net causing isolation.) Students (66 percent), African-Americans (54 percent), and "other minorities"<sup>2</sup> (57 percent)—all mainstays in an emerging generation of surfers—have been considerably more interested and successful in using the Net as a social vehicle than has the average surfer.

**18 percent** rely upon the Net "completely" or "very much" for daily news. Men were almost twice as likely as women to depend on Net news sources.

**39 percent** prefer to shop offline rather than online (16 percent). A substantial 44 percent have no preference.



**68 percent**

say that using e-mail or instant messaging has reduced their long-distance phone bill. An exceptionally high segment (81 percent) of women aged 55 and older benefit most from these e-mail and instant message savings.

**22 percent** are "extremely concerned" or "very concerned" about a child's development being impeded by "too much Net." Women over 55 (33 percent) and Hispanics (31 percent) were the groups most often troubled by this potential problem.

**ONLINE EXTRA**  
READ THE FULL SURVEY AT  
[YIL.COM/EXTRA/POLL2000](http://YIL.COM/EXTRA/POLL2000)

**71 percent** of men queried have shopped online, in comparison with 58 percent of women polled. Young males with at least a bachelor's degree and an annual income of \$75,000 are the most likely Web shoppers.

**39 percent** know what a "cookie" is and how to disable it. Men were twice as likely as women to know this.

Harris Interactive conducted this survey for Y-Life from June 23 to 27, 2000, with 2,565 respondents taken from Harris's database of more than 6.5 million surfers.

<sup>1</sup>) NielsenNetRatings and Jupiter Communications report that women constitute a majority of surfers (by .2 to 1.8 percent, depending upon the study). Considering standard margins of error in such studies, Y-Life reports online gender parity. <sup>2</sup>) This includes Asians, Native Americans, and other self-identified racial or ethnic minorities.

ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

# A HOW AMERICA IN THEIR OWN VOICES, ORDINARY AND USES EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE ANSWER THE THE QUESTION, 'WHAT MAKES YOU CLICK?' NET



## THE SMOKE JUMPER

NAME Murry A. Taylor

AGE 59

LOCATION Fort Wainwright, AK

E-MAIL matay@ptialaska.net

### WEB HANGOUTS

JUMPING FIRE [[jumpingfire.com](http://jumpingfire.com)],  
NATIONAL SMOKEJUMPER  
Association [[www.smokejumpers.com](http://smokejumpers.com)]

**M**urry Taylor is the oldest active smoke jumper in America and has parachuted into more than 200 wildland infernos. As one of America's elite corps of forest-fire fighters, he primarily makes jumps into the most remote, mountainous areas of Alaska, using the Web to help track potential catastrophes.

"I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that the Internet has revolutionized smoke jumping, and all aspects of delivering and retrieving firefighters to and from the scene of a fire. We use it to share information about fire activity between bases."

"The main applications we use are daily weather data and lightning detection. These solar-powered detectors relay the time and longitude and latitude of lightning strikes to the Web at **ALASKA FIRE SERVICE**. Smoke jumpers use this data to find areas of intense activity to look for new fires, or to pre-position at a remote station in order to respond quickly to any new fire. This info, of course, helps us get to and on fires when they are still small and easy to put out. Once we're ready to be pulled off a fire, the word is spread via a network. Helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft are then dispatched, and our stations make plans to feed and house us accordingly."

"One of the more recent applications is the use of digital cameras. A spotter in the aircraft will take photos of a fire. When he returns to base, he'll put the images onto a computer and e-mail them out to fire managers, who can then see what the smoke jumpers are dealing with. In the past, radio messages relayed by phone through various individuals often distorted the real picture."



## THE VAUDEVILLIAN

NAME Keith Nelson

AGE 30

LOCATION Various points around the U.S.

E-MAIL [cirkus@bindlestiff.org](mailto:cirkus@bindlestiff.org)AUTONOMEDIA [[www.autonomedia.org](http://www.autonomedia.org)]CIRCUS AMOK [[www.circusamok.org](http://www.circusamok.org)]

**M**ost people don't make a living swallowing swords, eating fire, and shoving screwdrivers up their noses. But,

then again, Keith Nelson isn't most people. He and his partner, Stephanie Monseau, founded the **BINDELSTIFF FAMILY CIRKUS** five years ago with some wild ideas and a taste for danger—on a shoestring budget. Today they're touring the country regularly and fully supporting themselves with their art. The advent of television may have nearly killed vaudeville, but the Web is helping to keep it alive. It's as invaluable to their act as the fire extinguisher they keep backstage.

"The Net's been an integral part of the show from the start. If someone is interested in book-

ing us, they can go to the site and get all the information they need, without us having to send out packages in the mail. This saves us a lot of money. A lot of places that want to book the show hear about us for the first time through the Net. In fact, when we went to Europe last year, pretty much all our bookings were made online. It saves us hundreds of dollars on phone bills.

"Our schedule sometimes changes when we're out on the road, but we can keep it constantly up-to-date on the site. That way people can check in to see where we are and when we're coming to their town. Our laptop's on its last legs, so right now we spend 40 to 50 bucks a week in online fees at Kinko's. But once we get a new machine we'll do daily updates to the site from the road, plus pictures from the tour or of cool places we go by."

"The only real negative about the Internet has to do with some of the dangerous stuff we do, like pyrotechnics and sword swallowing. There's a lot of information online about those things. Unfortunately, not all of it is correct, which can get people hurt. Sideshow arts have always been something passed on from generation to generation on the lot. Now all the information is out there, which means there are a lot more people running around who know the theory of how to eat fire—but whether they can actually do it safely is a completely different question. Some things aren't meant to be learned online—you need someone standing over your shoulder telling you, 'No, you need to tip your head back a little more.'"

## THE BURGER KING GUY

NAME Juan Ramos

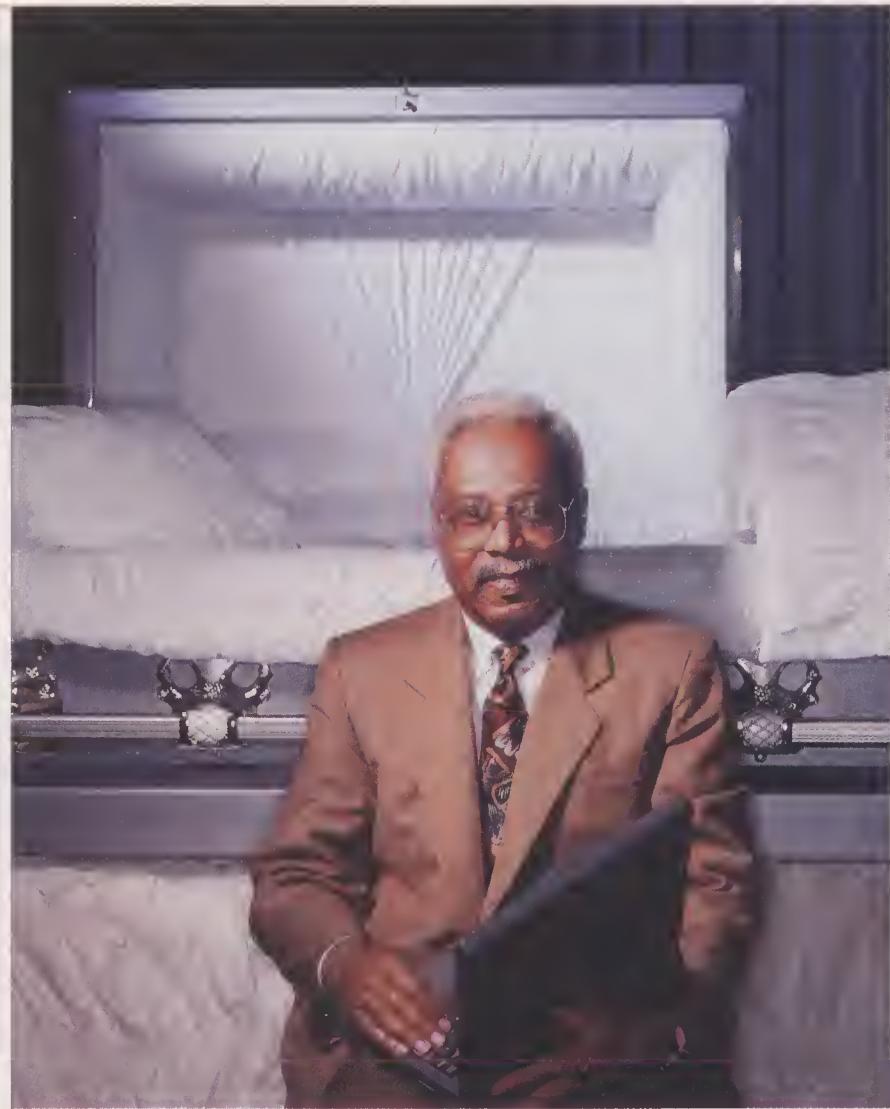
AGE 27

LOCATION Brooklyn, NY

E-MAIL [john4625@aol.com](mailto:john4625@aol.com)WEB HANGOUT [WWF.com](http://WWF.com)

**A**t the Times Square Burger King in New York City, you can get fast food—and faster Internet access. With each Whopper meal, customers receive 20 minutes of surfing time on one of 10 Dell desktop PCs, connected to the Net via a DSL. Juan Ramos, the restaurant's assistant manager, logs on before or after work to take advantage of the amazing connection speed.

"The connection at work is way faster than the connection I have at home, so I use it to download videos and music. I like to log on to **WWF.COM** and watch the Smackdown video clips. I also listen to a lot of Latin music online, like salsa and merengue. I listen to singles by



musicians such as Fernando Villalona, Olga Tanon, and Marc Anthony.

"Each day, I go to a Dominican Republic newspaper online and keep up on elections there. And most recently, I found a second job at the *New York Times* Web site. I'm going to be the new assistant manager at Au Bon Pain.

"A lot of employees at Burger King also use the computers at the restaurant because they don't have computers at home. The PCs give people who can't afford a computer an opportunity to go online.

"You can tell from the way many customers act when they log on that it's the first time they've ever been on the Net. The regulars usually show up after 5 P.M., when it gets really busy in the restaurant. Most of them use the PCs to check their e-mail or chat online. And some people get online to use our Web cams, which let you send video postcards to anyone in the world. I've sent video postcards to family still living in the Dominican Republic, where I'm from. In the past, I used to have to phone them. Now we can communicate online for free."

### THE CASKET MAKER

NAME Willis Webb

AGE 53

LOCATION Chicago, IL

E-MAIL [mWebb@illinoiscasketco.com](mailto:mWebb@illinoiscasketco.com)

WEB HANGOUT PARASCOPE [[parascope.com](http://parascope.com)]

Willis Webb's e-commerce Web site isn't as lively as Amazon.com or eBay, but that's just fine with him. Its big-ticket item, the \$1,200 Monarch, is a sky blue casket with silver brackets and, inside, sky blue pillows. Owner of the ILLINOIS CASKET CO. for 15 years, Webb uses the Web to compete nationally with funeral homes, which once monopolized many local casket markets.

"We buy the casket shells already put together, then put the interiors in and the hardware on. A person who found us through the Net phoned from L.A. Thursday morning and ordered a casket. We put it on a flight Thursday afternoon at 2:30 P.M., and it was in L.A. by 6 P.M. the same evening.

"The site was my daughter's idea. We were just playing with the computer, and she said, 'Wouldn't it be nice if we had a site?' We started getting questions from all over the country! Some months, if it were not for the Web, I don't know what shape we would be in. You have individuals who just do not believe in spending that much money on death any longer, and they're looking around and searching for alternatives. They feel they can get anything on the Net."

### THE VIRUS WRITER

NAME John

AGE 29

LOCATION Baltimore, MD

WEB HANGOUT COOERZ NETWORK [[coderz.net](http://coderz.net)]

Ever since he was a 13-year-old fooling around on his PS 180, John has been writing viruses. Now a civil engineer by day and a virus writer called "evul" by night, he continues to hone his skills via a community of fellow virus aficionados.

"I have to admit, there's a certain element of danger in what I do. It's a rush. It's like jumping off a platform with a bungee cord. You're pretty sure you're not going to fall, but anything can happen, right? But really, I'm not worried about the consequences. Generally, I don't have a malicious intent. You won't see me writing intentionally destructive code.

"But I'm not totally innocent. I just coded a 'multipartite' virus and worm....But you know, it's not destructive. I'm not into actively spreading viruses. In the beginning, what intrigued me was the fact that this thing could replicate itself. And I guess writing them is a process of learning. Virus writing is an expression of your creativity, whether or not people call it destructive creativity. All creativity is an art form. It doesn't have to be a picture or a song or poem to be art.

"Virus writers are a very tight-knit group. For the most part, we're all very good friends. We write viruses together, collaborate. We share ideas, share pieces of code. Sometimes we sit down and work on something together. I make this part, he makes that part, and we put it together and it works. The Internet has definitely improved my skill. All the information is out there. All the technical data on processors, all the operating systems—it's all out there if you just know where to look.

"The community can be hostile when people try to infiltrate it. There are idiots who want to be a menace. I hate it when these kids come on and ask, 'Give me a virus that I can infect my school with.' They don't hang out long. If you come in asking questions, you're banned."

**THE BRACE FACE**

NAME Madeline Gesslein

AGE 11

LOCATION Queens, NY

E-MAIL [gesslein@worldnet.att.net](mailto:gesslein@worldnet.att.net)

WEB HANGOUTS

ANIMATION FACTORY [[animationfactory.com](http://animationfactory.com)],  
VINCENT FLANDERS' WEB PAGES THAT SUCK.COM  
[[webpagesthatsuck.com](http://webpagesthatsuck.com)]

**A** year ago, Madeline Gesslein heard from her mother the words teenagers have dreaded for generations: "You're getting braces." After bidding a temporary good-bye to her shiny white smile, Gesslein embraced the orthodontic process, working with schoolmates to create **YO, IT'S TIME FOR BRACES**, a site just for kids with braces (or about to get them). Since then, children from as far away as Japan and Australia have logged in to allay their fears, and Gesslein has become a voice for metal mouths everywhere.

"Kids used to get called metal mouth at school, but since we created our Web site, hav-

ing braces has become cool. Now most kids in my class want to get braces. It started when I kept an online journal recording everything that happened when I went to the orthodontist so that kids would know what to expect and wouldn't be afraid. One girl e-mailed me because she was getting a really unusual, uncomfortable appliance, and she was scared. She e-mailed me asking for help, and we've become e-mail pen pals. And since my classmate Val translated the site into Russian, we're helping kids all over the world. When my mom was a kid, she hated braces because they were really scary, with bands all over your teeth. Now braces are less painful and better designed, and we can use the Web to help other kids learn not to be afraid."

**THE NONAGENARIAN**

NAME Lee Rast

AGE 92

LOCATION Chattanooga, TN

E-MAIL [leerast@aol.com](mailto:leerast@aol.com)WEB HANGOUTS SENIORNET [[seniornet.org](http://seniornet.org)],  
ELDERWEB [[elderweb.com](http://elderweb.com)]

**L**ee Rast grew up on a farm in rural Alabama and now surfs the Net on a speedy PC in her cozy apartment. Grandma Rast loves the Internet: When relatives hosted a big bash for her 90th birthday, she dashed off an e-mail list of 240 invitees.

"I wrote a book for my family called *Celebrating 90 Years of Living*, and since I live in Tennessee and my family is from Alabama, I used the Net to do research from the local archives in Montgomery.

"The Internet's a tool, like a car that helps you get from one place to another. My family is now scattered all over the place, and we like to keep informed of what's going on with each other. All eight of my great-grandchildren are on the Internet, and when the six-year-olds write, they like an answer right away. It used to take months to write to someone and get a response.

"When I was growing up, we were so far out in the country we had a horse and buggy, and it took you all day to go a few miles to do some shopping. Now everything's lightning fast. I can't even imagine what it would have been like to have the Internet back then, because we wouldn't have known what to do with it. The changes I've seen in my lifetime are amazing."

**THE GATSBY LOVER**

NAME Allen Dale Smith

AGE 41

LOCATION Topping, VA

E-MAIL [dreams@gatsbycars.com](mailto:dreams@gatsbycars.com)WEB HANGOUT ENDLESS ENDEAVORS  
[[endlessendeavors.com](http://endlessendeavors.com)]

**A** llen Dale Smith has been fascinated with neoclassic automobiles (new cars that appear to have been built decades earlier) since he was 15 years old, when he first began tinkering under the hoods of camping trailers and riding lawn mowers on his father's Mississippi farm. Today he runs an automotive design company called *Gatsby Coachworks*, a mom-and-pop shop that custom builds *Gatsby Cabriolets* and *Gatsby Griffins*. These vehicles start at \$34,500, and Smith has begun selling them at **GATSBY COACHWORKS**.

"The most important thing the Web gives me is credibility. It gives a small company like my own, which is only three or four years old, the ability to look like a company that's been around for 40 years. When I start negotiating deals with clients, I can have them pull up my Web page and show them a picture of my work. They can see a clear shot of a car and see exactly what I'm talking about. In

# We invented consumer networking *for families with teenagers, like the Patersons.*



**A**t SOHOware® we know what you're going through. We know how teenagers like to "hog" the Internet – for everything from downloading music to chatting with friends. Which is why we offer a variety of solutions that make it easy for everyone in your home to share a broadband high-speed Internet connection – and to monitor your teenager's Web activity and block out those sites you want off limits. It's also why we've gone the extra mile to make our products not only easy to use but easy on your budget (we know you have to put the kids through college). You can buy SOHOware products at local computer superstores or online from us. To learn more, visit our Web site, or you can call one of our customer representatives at 1-800-632-1118, ext. 2801. (That is, if your teenagers aren't hogging the phone, too).

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We make networking personal.™

[www.sohoware.com](http://www.sohoware.com)

## ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

fact, all the people I've dealt with so far have found me online.

"The Web also gives me a worldwide presence, which is important because there aren't too many customers in Middlesex County, Virginia. I just sold fenders to a guy in Canada who wants to build his own Gatsby. And we've got guys from Paris, Austria, Poland, and all over calling us now. We're also using our site to teach people from around the world how to build their own Gatsby cars. We post info on how to lay out a dashboard and how to do the woodwork. We've also posted the car's original assembly manual online."

"And we've been purchasing a lot of parts on the Net. We buy all our horns on eBay. And when I was at a loss for finding a set of special wheels, I created a generic e-mail explaining what I was looking for. Then I started sending it to car site after car site. Hours later, this guy calls me out of the blue and says he has the wheels."

"But I have been burned twice online. Once, we bought a carburetor on the Net, and it arrived busted. Another time, we bought memory for our computer, and it never arrived."

### THE TALENT AGENT

NAME Dot Findlater

AGE 47

LOCATION Los Angeles, CA

E-MAIL [staff@mirrorimagesco.com](mailto:staff@mirrorimagesco.com)

WEB HANGOUT [PHONEFREE.COM](http://PHONEFREE.COM)

**W**ether you look like Jimmy Dean or Jimmy Swaggart, Dot Findlater wants to make your acquaintance. As owner of MIRROR IMAGES CO., an L.A.-based talent agency, Findlater scours the Web for new faces to join her stable of famous look-alikes.

"I would say that at least 50 percent of the look-alikes I represent have found me through my Web site. For instance, I found my Prince William online, as well as Drew Carey, Britney Spears, and John F. Kennedy Jr. And what's great is that they're not all from L.A. The Web is making me accessible to talent from all over the country. In fact, I now get a lot of international inquiries from look-alikes who can simply go to the site and fill out a registration form to be onboard with my agency."

"I also get international inquiries from clients. I supplied an Austin Powers look-alike for Helmut Kohl's daughter's birthday party in Cannes, France. That job was put together purely over the Net. I was contacted online, we conversed via e-mail, and I won the job. All pictures, résumés, contracts, and job info were sent via e-mail."



HERMAN ADRIAN

# If your teenagers use the Internet to download music,

you're going to need a good set of earplugs

*and a set of these.*

Shouldn't you get the chance to download the music *you* like? With a SOHOware® B.I.G., every computer in your home can share a single cable or DSL high-speed Internet connection. And you can monitor your teenagers' Internet access. The CableFREE NetBlaster acts as a wireless bridge for your network. And it gives you the freedom to surf the Web (and get away from their loud music) anywhere in your home. Both products are easy to install and easy on your pocketbook. They're available at superstores like CompUSA®, Fry's Electronics®, Micro Center®, and The Wiz® or online from us. To learn more, visit us online. Or talk to one of our customer representatives at 1-800-632-1118, ext. 2801.



B.I.G., as in  
*Broadband Internet Gateway*



*CableFREE NetBlaster*

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We make networking personal.™

[www.sohoware.com](http://www.sohoware.com)



## THE SUSHI CHEF

NAME Jay Catapusan

AGE 37

LOCATION San Diego, CA

E-MAIL [AskTheChef@StickyRice.com](mailto:AskTheChef@StickyRice.com)WEB HANGOUTS [GOFISH.COM](http://GOFISH.COM),STICKYRICE [[stickyrice.com](http://stickyrice.com)]

**S**ushi is one of the Far East's oldest culinary traditions, but even sushi chefs are keeping up with the times by getting wired and using the Net.

"I can order special sushi knives and decorated chopsticks online, and, if need be, I can join my colleagues in ordering fish online and have it flown in fresh by FedEx. The Net can help to get rid of the middleman, so the sushi chef can get the best price for the freshest fish."

"The Internet also helps fight misconceptions about sushi. People think you have to be male or Japanese to be a sushi chef, but I'm actually Filipino and I've been doing sushi for 19 years. And more and more women are learning about sushi online. There's actually an American female sushi chef in Aspen. The profession unfortunately is very chauvinistic. But the Net helps open people's eyes to new possibilities and may help address the shortage of sushi chefs that exists right now."

"The Net can also help educate those who love sushi. We'd like to start doing streaming video over the Web to show people how to do basic rolls, sushi, and even tempura."



## THE MATCHMAKER

NAME Rabbi Shmuley Boteach

AGE 33

LOCATION New York, NY

E-MAIL [shmuley@lchaim.org](mailto:shmuley@lchaim.org)WEB HANGOUTS [JDATE.COM](http://JDATE.COM),AMERICAN SINGLES [[americansingles.com](http://americansingles.com)]

**M**atchmaker-in-chief for several Internet singles sites, Rabbi Boteach authored *Dating Secrets of the 10 Commandments* and the best-selling *Kosher Sex*. Boteach, who served as a rabbi at Oxford University for 11 years, has introduced hundreds of couples and jokingly refers to himself as the "love prophet."

"The Internet facilitates a global dating community. At a local bar, a woman might find 20 guys. Through an offline matchmaker, maybe 500 guys. On the Internet, she'll find millions of available singles and even thousands in her own city. If you can't find someone online, you know that the problem is with you and not with others. But even if you're short on time or shy or lack self-confidence, there's no problem."

You can go online in curlers and a bathrobe.

"Dating is usually predominately visual: People look at someone, and they're attracted or aren't. Men usually are attracted to sex objects, and women to success objects. But online, you can read in-depth about someone and decide whether he or she is someone you'd like to get to know. You can discover a person's true character, rather than just seeing them drive up in a fancy car."

"Of course, we hope that online dating leads to real-time matches. It's important to meet people face-to-face. And there is still a stigma to meeting someone online, though it's diminishing now, as more and more people do it. But why isn't there a stigma to meeting someone in a bar? Let's stigmatize that! Why is it so lofty to meet someone in a smoke-filled room?"

#### THE ROCKET SCIENTIST

NAME Aprille Ericsson-Jackson

AGE 37

LOCATION Washington, D.C.

E-MAIL [aejacks@pop500.gsfc.nasa.gov](mailto:aejacks@pop500.gsfc.nasa.gov)

WEB HANGOUTS [SPACEJOBS.COM](http://SPACEJOBS.COM),

SCIENCEMASTER [[scencemaster.com](http://scencemaster.com)]

**S**ince becoming the first African-American woman to receive a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Howard University, in 1995, Ericsson-Jackson has won numerous awards for her work with NASA. When she's not designing satellites, Ericsson-Jackson is helping women and students of color pursue their dreams of a career in science or engineering.

"Using computers and the Internet to develop satellite models can save the government lots of time and money, into the billions of dollars. We also depend on Internet tools to alert team members if a spacecraft has software problems. Now there's even some discussion about a new mission carrying a satellite equipped with a camera that people will maneuver to see the Earth from different angles."

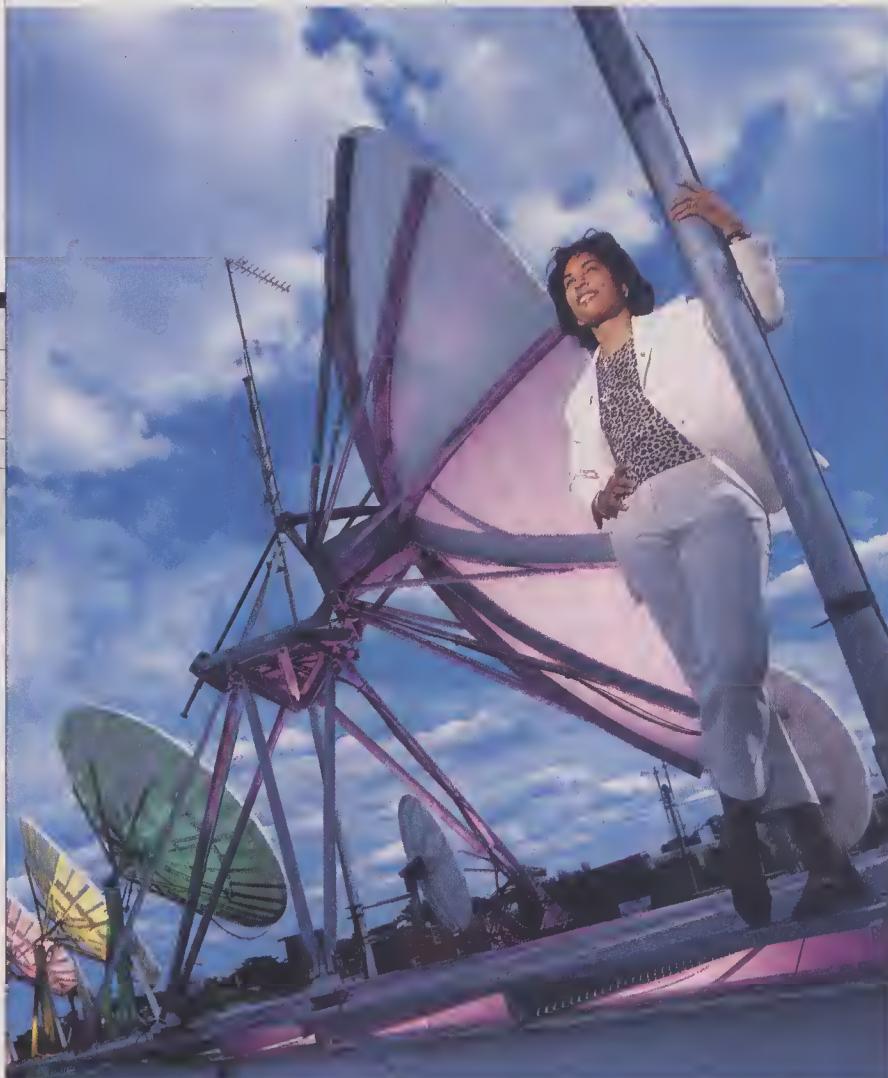
"For me, the Net is even more important as an outreach tool. It makes people more aware of opportunities in science, and I try to help channel information to show young people what's available for them. Unfortunately, society doesn't encourage young women to pursue technical careers, and America can't afford to lose 50 percent of our potential scientific workforce. The Web can help remedy that, by getting the information to the people who need it."

"The Internet can also bring new resources to the African-American community. In Washington, lots of African-American kids use public computers to look for funding for college and to apply online. Who's to say that the corner

bookie couldn't have earned an MIT degree if he had been given the opportunity? It costs money to be online, unfortunately, and a lot of people still can't afford the cost of a system that's fast enough, with a printer and everything else you need. And one of the things that's really sad is that teachers and educators lack Internet access, and their schools are missing out. Hopefully, all that will change."

"my time," he says. "And if I do decide to have sex with people, we're both consenting adults." Sterling set up a home page, complete with buff near-nude photos, last fall.

"I use the Internet to target a market that's at least upscale enough to use a computer. So I can raise my prices a little bit. You can do your screening process without ever talking to anyone on the phone. Obviously, you



#### THE MALE ESCORT

NAME Ken Sterling

AGE 33

LOCATION Northeast

E-MAIL [sterlingken@home.com](mailto:sterlingken@home.com)

WEB HANGOUT [JCREW.COM](http://JCREW.COM)

**S**econds after a lengthy phone interview with Y-LIFE, Ken Sterling, a self-employed male escort for four years, calls back in a panic. He wants to make it clear that he does not charge his clients (mostly men) for sex. That sort of thing is illegal! "They're paying for

reach a worldwide market as well; you get foreign travelers coming in. I've had offers to travel to Scandinavia.

"I've definitely increased my business, and the quality of my business—I've seen a guy from Houston, and I've seen a guy from Maine. I advertise on some of the Web sites as well. When the Republican Convention ran in Philadelphia, I kept the Web site ads running because I knew the escort business was going to be pretty busy. I always figure the guys who are most conservative are the ones doing all this stuff."

**THE MIDWIFE**

NAME Robin Weiss

AGE 29

LOCATION Louisville, KY

E-MAIL [Pregnancy.Guide@About.com](mailto:Pregnancy.Guide@About.com)

WEB HANGOUTS ACNM: AMERICAN

COLLEGE OF NURSE-MIDWIVES [[midwife.org](http://midwife.org)],  
THE LABOR OF LOVE [[thelaboroflove.com](http://thelaboroflove.com)],  
BABYPRESSCONFERENCE.COM

**H**aving helped bring 400 babies into the world, Robin Weiss has broadened her pregnancy coaching to include counseling women online. When Weiss recently Webcast a patient's delivery live, more than 10,000 people tuned in to cheer on the labor process.

"We showed the birth online because we wanted to share the experience with friends and relatives who couldn't be there, and to convey the intensity of labor. When you look back on giving birth, it's hard to remember the intensity or express it, but when you record it as it's happening, it really comes across. We plugged our

laptop into the hospital phone line and took digital photos, which we then posted online. It was a two-day labor, and Pam, the mother, received e-mails of support throughout the process. Even as she prepared to give birth, she typed updates describing what she was feeling, until the pain was overwhelming. My husband appreciated being able to follow the birth online. He could watch the stages progress and see that we were almost there, and that I'd be home for dinner. I'm now pregnant with my fourth child, and maybe I'll do a live Webcast as well."

**THE DOCTOR**

NAME Charles F. Shaefer Jr.

AGE 51

LOCATION Augusta, GA

E-MAIL [cshaefer@ix.netcom.com](mailto:cshaefer@ix.netcom.com)WEB HANGOUTS EPOCRATES [[epocrates.com](http://epocrates.com)],  
PALM [[palm.com](http://palm.com)]

**L**ike many of his physician colleagues, Shaefer has found innovative uses for the Internet and his PDA. Many doctors use

wireless Palms to retrieve lab-test results, surgical reports, and admitting histories via simple pull-down menus, but Shaefer uses his Palm primarily when prescribing medication.

"My handheld PDA has totally transformed how I practice medicine, because I can now check in a matter of seconds how any two medications interact. I used to have to leave the examination room to look up information in a 3,000-page reference book. Now I can spend more time talking with patients and can more easily double-check my prescriptions to make sure there are no potentially dangerous drug reactions to worry about."

"Wireless connectivity can help in another way. Diabetic patients who keep me posted on their blood-sugar levels on a monthly basis have generally sent in the data by fax or mail. With a Palm VII wireless PDA, they can store the info and e-mail it to me every week. I can use that data in some cases to alter their treatment or adjust their insulin dosages or medication."

"Most important, every day I can connect to the Internet to get daily updates about drug recalls and bulletins about how to use medications more safely. That's much better than the tradition of relying on printed material, which can be months or even years old. Because my PalmPilot helps me acquire vital information, I now consider it, with its medical software, my second most important tool, after the stethoscope."

**THE COUNSELOR**

NAME Julie Morrell

AGE 41

LOCATION San Diego, CA

E-MAIL [juliem@counseling-connection.com](mailto:juliem@counseling-connection.com)WEB HANGOUT THE COUNSELING CONNECTION [[counseling-connection.com](http://counseling-connection.com)]

**A**fter a dozen years practicing as a traditional therapist, counseling people with everything from severe depression to marital problems, Julie Morrell went online. While she continues to see patients in person in her San Diego office (some of whom have found her on the Net), she also has a growing online practice, in which therapy takes place via e-mail or ICQ chats.

"Online consultation is a first step for many people. It may be the way into traditional therapy for someone who wouldn't consider walking into a counselor's office. I use the term *consult* rather than *therapy* because the psychological and marriage-and-family counseling associations don't yet recognize online work. It's experimental; it's new. Of course, you want to be careful if you're choosing a therapist online: You want someone

who is trained, who is degreed, and who has his or her résumé online.

"For some people, it's easier to write thoughts down than to express them verbally. And those who frequently travel or are simply too busy find online counseling more convenient. They don't have to leave their home, and they can send and receive e-mails on the road. In some cases, I have built long-term relationships that are analogous to relationships in traditional therapy."

"The downside to the Internet is that I am missing the visual and auditory clues that one gets in person. In the room with someone, you know if something has struck a chord. You can see tears in someone's eyes. And there are limits to the Web. When people go to my site and fill out a client form, there is a warning. It says, 'If you are in an abusive or violent relationship, or if you've been seriously or deeply depressed and are having thoughts of hurting yourself, online consults are not appropriate.' They should call a crisis center or get other, more immediate, help."

### THE THIRD GRADER

NAME Carlan Bowman

AGE 9

LOCATION Chattanooga, TN

E-MAIL c/o Chris Hockert, his teacher:  
chockert@bellsouth.net

WEB HANGOUT THE FLAT STANLEY PROJECT  
[flatstanley.enoreo.on.ca]

A third grader at Clifton Hills Elementary School in Chattanooga, Carlan Bowman has graduated from playing games on computers ("I did that when I was a kid, last year") to surfing the Net. In addition, he keeps in regular e-mail touch with international "key pals"—electronic pen pals. He also participates in the Flat Stanley Project, in which students from around the world share pictures and stories about Flat Stanley, Jeff Brown's popular children's book character.

"We had someone coming to visit our school from Jordan, so we went onto the Internet to learn about the life of the people in that country. The children wear different clothes, use

different money, and have a different flag—red, white, black, and green.

"There's another thing on the Internet that I like. I really like Flat Stanley. He's flat because a big, old piece of cardboard fell on him and squished him. We e-mail each other pictures of Flat Stanley and make up a journal about his adventures. We send them off to other schools around the world, and eventually Flat Stanley comes back in the mail, and we get to see where he's been and read about his new adventures. One time he went to Japan! When he came back, he had origami birds for us!

"Now my teacher prints out the e-mails, and I send letters back to my key pals. I tell them about my life, and they tell me about theirs. I tell them about my school and my city and my life and my pets."

### THE RHINO WATCHER

NAME Jay Haight

AGE 48

LOCATION Portland, OR

E-MAIL pachyman@bigfoot.com

WEB HANGOUT DISCOVERY.COM

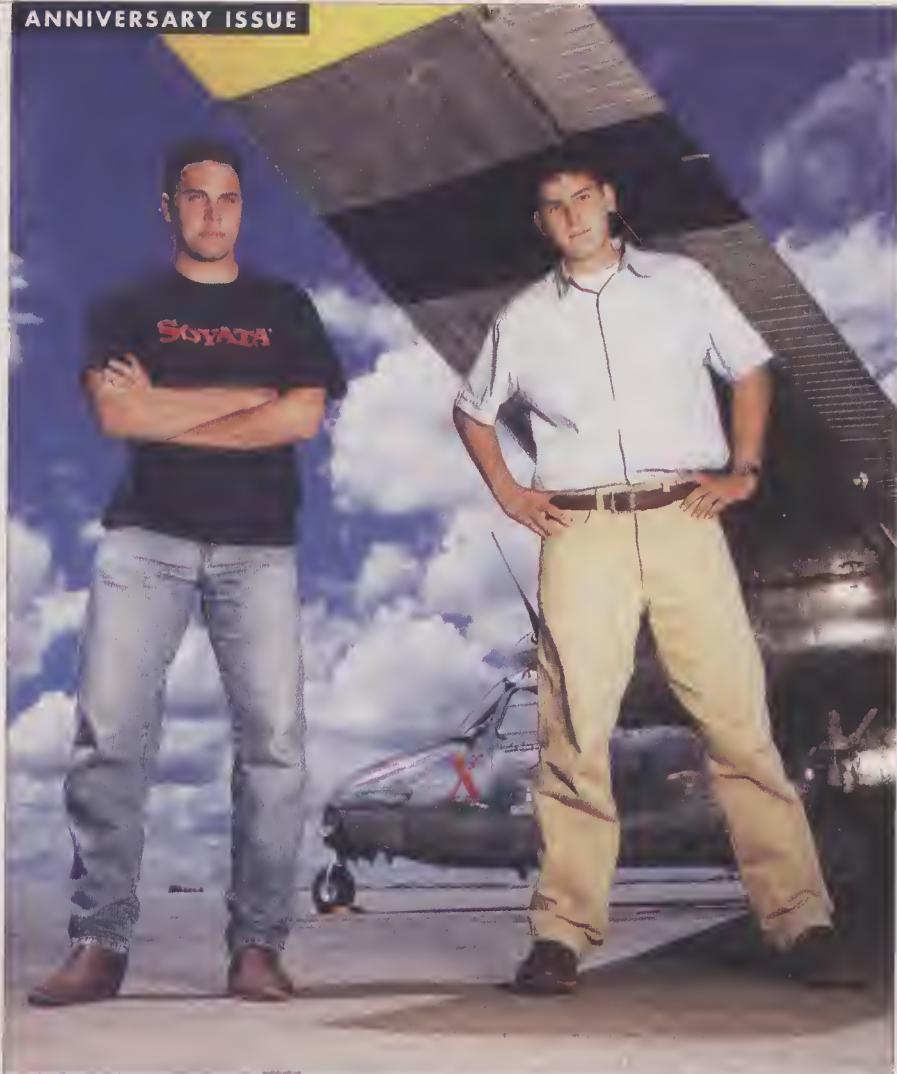
G etting close to a rhinoceros can be dangerous business, but for Jay Haight, who works at the Oregon Zoo, it's a daily routine. Sharing images he captures on his Web cams with zoo lovers all over the country at OREGON ZOO is one of Haight's joys, and he hopes to add dozens of new Web cams throughout the rest of the zoo soon.

"We have six full-color video cameras that capture live images routed through switches at the rhino barn. We don't let the rhinos too close to the cameras, because they'd probably trash them pretty quickly. They're pretty powerful animals, so we keep them at least a few feet away. They have two horns, which can be as long as four feet, and they tend to smash things."

"At first, we set up cameras to monitor the birth of a rhino, because it was winter and she was born indoors, where people couldn't see them. Now I use it to monitor how the animals are behaving throughout the day. We often capture them breeding. They do it about once a month, shoving each other around like tanks."

"Soon a rhino birth will go out over the Web for the first time ever. We're not sure if we'll show that live, though, because it might be distressing for children to watch if it doesn't turn out well. In addition to the rhino cams, we have 16 other Web cams, so people can watch zebras, monkeys, birds, and antelope. And we're hoping to add a hippo cam soon."





## THE AVIATOR

NAME Dan Dominguez

AGE 21

LOCATION El Paso, TX

E-MAIL [learn@worldflight2000.com](mailto:learn@worldflight2000.com)WEB HANGOUTS JIM CULLUM'S LANDING [[landing.com](http://landing.com)]; AIR ROUTING INTERNATIONAL [[www.airrouting.com](http://www.airrouting.com)]

**A**t the age of 17, Dan Dominguez (above, right), along with childhood pal Chris Wall (left), piloted an aircraft from El Paso, Texas, to Ketchikan, Alaska. This month they plan to circumnavigate the globe. If they succeed, they'll become the youngest aviators ever to achieve this feat. Their 120-day voyage will begin and end in Rochester, New York, with pit stops in Australia, Nepal, and Greenland, among other locales. The plane of choice: a 1957 Aerocommander they've dubbed Dreamcatcher. The twin-engine aircraft has been fitted with laptops, satellite equipment, and a hard disk crammed with hours of Bob Dylan tunes. Thanks

to state-of-the-art technology, surfers can monitor the duo's progress at **WORLD FLIGHT 2000**.

"Why are we doing it? Because around the world is as far as we can go. And we can't afford to fly to the moon."

"One of the things making this trip possible is the Net. Our site has helped us get sponsors and volunteers. And the planning aspect of this trip is being done almost entirely online. Daily, we send e-mails to people throughout the world, arranging places to stay, and planning visits.

"Also, it's crazy how much flight information is online. You can get the price of gas in Bangkok, the current weather in Japan. You couldn't have prepared for a flight like this five years ago. We have a couple of full-time volunteers who are using the Net to contact people at every one of our stops. They're making sure there's someone there to meet us with fuel at the airfields, that there's a place to sleep when we touch down, and that we won't get held up with visa and customs problems."

"On top of the airplane we've installed an antenna for satellite communications, so

we'll be able to chat live with site visitors. We're using this linkup in place of expensive and heavy radar equipment. This way, the plane will be lighter, safer, and more reliable. Also, we'll be transmitting video footage and digital pictures."

"So if you're bored on a Friday afternoon, you should go to our Web page and ask us questions. It'll keep us awake during the longer flights."

## THE CHEROKEE WEBMISTRESS

NAME Tonia Williams

AGE 31

LOCATION Tahlequah, OK

E-MAIL [Webmaster@cherokee.org](mailto:Webmaster@cherokee.org)WEB HANGOUT CYBERTOWN [[cybertown.com](http://cybertown.com)]

**T**he Cherokee Nation was slow to adopt a home on the Web, says Tonia Williams, who authors the tribe's official site. "A lot of the older tribal members simply didn't understand the benefits of the technology," she says. Today the nation is using the Web to preserve its culture and language, and to communicate with tribal members scattered across the U.S.

"There is so much misinformation out there on the Web about the Cherokee Nation, and I'm trying to dispel some of that with the official site. You'd be surprised how many people still think we live in tepees. Another common misconception is that Cherokees live on a reservation."

"This isn't true. In fact, we live in neighborhoods, just like everybody else. Our children go to high school like everybody else. But TV shows, magazines, the media—and now the Web—continue to reinforce these ridiculous stereotypes."

"We also use our site for the distribution of news and events for public and tribal use, as well as information on programs and services available to tribal members. It's important to get this online, because many Cherokees don't know about the programs available to them, such as housing services, food distribution, child care, college scholarships, grants, and stuff like that."

"Also, many of the younger tribal members don't really know about tribal history and how we got to where we are now. That's why I'm developing a complete cultural history and language course for the Web. You'll be able to go online and learn the Cherokee syllabary—the sounds of the nation; the language; sentence structure; and how to communicate. It'll be an in-depth, step-by-step course, and it'll be open to everyone."

Y

Reported by ROB BERNSTEIN and JEREMY CAPLAN; additional reporting by MOLLY CHEHAK, STEVE KNOPPER, and DAVID SHEFF.

FOR SITES IN THIS STORY, PLEASE TURN TO THIS MONTH'S SITE ADDRESS GUIDE, OR VISIT [WWW.YAHOO.COM/URL/0009/PROFILES.HTML](http://WWW.YAHOO.COM/URL/0009/PROFILES.HTML)



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ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

# WIRED ICE

**IN ICELAND, THE MOST WIRED NATION  
ON EARTH, WEB SURFERS ARE COOL,  
CALM, AND VERY WELL CONNECTED**

BY ERIK DAVIS

The mountains around the Icelandic capital of Reykjavík are capped with snow, and the June sun is slipping into the long, slow twilight that will linger on past midnight. And **OZ.COM**, one of Iceland's most visionary information technology companies, is in the midst of its annual "spring cleaning." In this companywide event, coworkers compete to win the coveted Golden Scrub, a trophy bestowed upon the person with the neatest office space. Employees are tossing old files, scrubbing desktops, and sweeping away dust bunnies. They're also busy pouring Tuborgs and shots of tequila as bribes for the judges. Meanwhile, the marketing department is passing out sombreros and slamming back shots of mescal, and members of the software team are running around with their faces painted like Mel Gibson's hordes in *Braveheart*. "You caught us on a very funny day," says Tomas Gislason, an administrator, whose spirits are particularly high.

HANS STRANO/STONE



"We are usually a very serious company."

Oz.com is indeed a serious company—one of many Icelandic businesses exploiting the country's love affair with technology. Founded by two kids who once had to borrow Mom's car to pick up investors from the airport, Oz.com is poised to exploit the next phase of digital communications: the convergence of mobile devices and the Internet, a process that's happening faster in Iceland than almost anywhere else in the world. Icelandair, for example, became the first airline to offer ticket purchasing via Net-enabled mobile phones. And Oz.com's iPulse system, an "extreme-messaging" service that will be rolled out across the globe this fall, is smart enough to reroute e-mail from your computer to your cell phone when you're not at your keyboard.

"Iceland is an ideal place to try out new ideas," says Skúli Mogensen, Oz.com's CEO. "People here quickly adopt trends, technologies, and fashion from both Europe and North America. We have a crazy appetite for everything new."

In fact, Iceland, where 275,000 people share a volcanic island barely the size of Kentucky, is (in percentage terms) the most wired nation on the planet: Nearly 75 percent of the population has Net access. Landssíminn, the country's largest telecommunications company, has a wireless network that extends across the land, even through the barren wastes and glaciers that make up the country's interior. Iceland's per capita use of mobile phones is among the highest in the world—a fact that will not surprise visitors to Reykjavík, where no restaurant meal is complete without a few notes from "The Hall of the Mountain King" emerging from a cell phone.

A handful of foreign companies are using Iceland as a test bed for new technologies. This is wonderful news for the Icelandic government, which has played a major role in spearheading the country's digital transformation. After privatizing some industries in the mid-1990s, such as herring processing and alcohol and tobacco production, the legislature earmarked \$500 million for com-

#### FISH 'N' CHIPS: Cod is king in Reykjavík, but the city is looking to its tech sector to boost Iceland's economy in the 21st century.

puters in schools. And when Microsoft refused to produce an Icelandic version of Windows 98, the Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture threatened legal action until the corporate Goliath relented. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, the president of Iceland, makes no bones about it: "We are in the process of creating the society of the future."

This is good news for the rest of us, because it suggests that the future will take place in a safe, clean, and beautiful land populated by healthy, affluent, and gorgeous people. It also means that the emerging world of ubiquitous computing, wireless communication, and massive databases will lose its futuristic flash and simply become the reality of our daily lives. As in other parts of the world, people in Iceland bank, shop, and work online. They download music, flirt, study, and trace their ancestors via the Web. The difference in Iceland is that *everybody* is doing it. "It's just a part of life," says Breki Karlsson, marketing manager of Oz.com. "It's like electricity. Nobody talks about electricity anymore."

Iceland's youth has embraced the new technology to the point of near absurdity. Dance clubs overflow with kids in baggy pants gyrating to the throbbing beats of electronica music while simultaneously punching messages into their cells. Thirteen-year-old Arna Dogg Tomasardottir got her first phone when she turned 12; most of her friends have them too. "You're sort of out of it if you don't have a phone," she says. "And if your phone isn't enabled with SMS, you're really out of it." SMS, which stands for short message standard, is a system for trading text messages. It's extremely popular among kids, who tap words into their hands at mind-boggling speeds.

Fish remains Iceland's main export, but fish alone will not keep the country flush throughout the 21st century. And businesspeo-

ple in Reykjavík aren't thinking much about cod these days. As the dot-com ads that line the international airport's concourses make clear, they are thinking IT. Two hundred information technology businesses have been launched during the past five years, and more are popping up all the time. "There's a can-do attitude here," says Sveinn Valfells, chairman of Dimon, which handles the delivery of Web information and services to wireless devices. "Because it's a small market, you can close deals almost on a handshake."

Valfells himself is a typical digital-age workaholic, speaking into his cell phone as he rushes between meetings. But he believes that Icelanders' enthusiasm for everything digital has roots that go deeper than the country's Protestant work ethic. "There's still a frontier spirit here," he says. "There's a willingness to take risks and explore the unknown. I don't know where it comes from, but our Viking ancestors were great seafaring people. They traveled to the Americas, into Russia, all over the place."

You cannot visit Iceland for long without hearing about the Vikings who settled the island—especially the real-life characters enshrined in the sagas, the medieval histories of kings, princesses, and bloody feuds that Icelanders revere the same way that the British cherish William Shakespeare. After adopting the Roman alphabet in 1100, Icelanders cranked out manuscripts at an amazing rate, and the sagas remain some of the greatest works of medieval prose. It's just more evidence of the country's passion for communication technologies. In fact, the people of Iceland hold the world record for book ownership per capita.

Today, the sagas are finding their way into cyberspace. An academic consortium called SagaNet is scanning high-resolution images of the medieval manuscripts to post on the Web, while other Icelanders hope to push the connections further. "The Web is the first tool that can imitate how the sagas were originally understood," says Harpa Hreinsdóttir, who has been using computers and the Web to teach medieval literature since 1995. "Originally, the sagas were told, not read. The same people and families kept reappearing in different stories. It was a linked world, like cyberspace, and the audience pressed links by asking who the different characters were."

Hreinsdóttir also points out that Icelandic lore and computer games are a natural fit. After all, the elves and trolls that inhabit role-playing games are loosely based on characters in the Eddas, the Icelandic texts that are the primary sources for Scandinavian mythology. And the link between computers and Iceland's literary tradition may go even deeper. "The poetic tradition helps with computer coding," says Valfells, who thinks Iceland's programmers rank among the best in the world. "If you're writing good poetry you have to follow certain forms, and you have to put in words that work. With software, it's just that the form is C++ or Java instead of hexameter or the sonnet."

One legacy of the sagas that has definitely found its way into Iceland's exploding computer culture is an obsession with genealogy (the sagas are dense with family trees). Hálfdan Helgason, a 63-year-old engineer who helped install the air-conditioning systems in the country's international airport, uses his home computer almost exclusively for researching his family history. Helgason started tracking his roots when he was 19, and he now has 350,000 names in his personal database. Like many Icelanders, he can trace his bloodline back to the sagas—"if we are to believe the stories," he says with a smile.

The genealogy of Icelanders is of interest not only to hobbyists

such as Helgason. The company with the highest profile in the country is **DECODE GENETICS**, which is funded by U.S. venture capital and headed by CEO Kari Stefansson. Decode Genetics is now intensively studying Icelanders' gene pool. Because of its historical and geographical isolation, Iceland has an unusually homogeneous population, which makes it easier to track the genetic variations involved in disease.

In addition to building a genetic database, Decode Genetics is assembling a genealogical database that stretches back to the Vikings. The digital family tree already encompasses the names and relations of 90 percent of all Icelanders, tracing their lineage to 1700. Finally, and most controversially, Decode Genetics has won government approval to build a \$100 million database of health records nationwide.

Though most Icelanders support the database, others are adamantly opposed to it. Oz.com's Karlsson was one of the first of his countrymen to decline to participate in the DNA project. "It's wrong for a private company to own that kind of information," he asserts. But Decode Genetics argues that comparing information across databases will speed the identification of dis-



'ICELAND IS AN  
IDEAL PLACE TO TRY  
OUT NEW IDEAS....  
WE HAVE A CRAZY  
APPETITE FOR EVERY-  
THING NEW'

—SKÚLI MOGENSEN

ease-related genes, which in turn may lead to new medicines and therapies. And, of course, lots of money.

Hakon Gudbjartsson is the director of IT for Decode Genetics. His offices are in Kópavogur, the same Reykjavík suburb where, just a few years ago, a major road was diverted to avoid disturbing a rock formation where elves purportedly lived (Icelanders believe in elves the way Americans believe in UFOs). As the man behind the health database, Gudbjartsson has had to placate many critics. "The database is not going to be some Big Brother system," he insists. He believes that with encryption and oversight procedures in place, Decode Genetics has dealt with the privacy concerns and is now in a position to make some real breakthroughs.

"The same way that companies are coming to Iceland to test cellular and Internet technologies—we think we can use Iceland as a model to test these medical systems," Gudbjartsson says. In the new millennium, 1,000 years after Iceland's Leif Eriksson stumbled onto North America, the country may find that its greatest resource lies in its people's passion for trafficking in information—not only bits and signals but also the data coiling in their cells.

**ERIK DAVIS** has written for *Wired*, *The Village Voice*, and *Rolling Stone*. He is also the author of *Techgnosis* (Harmony Books, 1998).

# LORDS OF THE RINGS

BY ERIC ADELSON

This year, the Web lets you master the **OLYMPIC** experience

**W**HEN HER MOMENT FINALLY ARRIVES this September, Melissa Price will walk into Stadium Australia with only a bag. In it, the Olympian pole-vaulter will carry just five items: her spikes, some chalk, a tape measure, a water bottle, and a Qualcomm e-mail-enabled cell phone. Price has three coaches, but not all can make the trip to Sydney. So the California native plans to win the gold, run to her cell, type "I did it!", hit Send, and climb onto the podium for the national anthem.

It's not enough to say the Internet is changing the Olympics experience. The Web is creating an entirely new state of mind

for the century-old gathering. For athletes, the Web will finally offer a desperately needed community—a place to chat and cheer after a workout or before a race, a way to contact all their coaches with one press of a button. For you, the fan, the nexus between the Olympics and the Web will be something much more unexpected: It will introduce you to athletes you've never heard of, sports you've never thought of, and kinds of interactivity and personalization you've never dreamed of. It will take you to a level of Olympics information that your television will truly envy.

It's no surprise that this year the Internet will court its largest audience ever. IBM, sponsor of the official site of the



Olympic summer games, **SYDNEY 2000**, expects 700 million page views during the fortnight in Sydney, compared with 10 million during the 1996 summer games in Atlanta—making the road to Sydney the most-traveled to date for the Web. Whether by starting new athletic communities or bulldozing old ones, the Web will finally provide what politics couldn't: the glue that binds the five Olympic rings.

## THE FAN RING

You've seen Marion Jones complain in the TV ads about getting love from fans only once every four years. Well, Mrs. Jones, there really hasn't been any way for fans to show you their love until now. Television doesn't connect fans with Canadian judo star **NICHOLAS GILL**. Newspapers don't dispense tips from gold-medalist breaststroker Kurt Grote on keeping water out of your goggles, as does **ASIMBA**. And can you even imagine being an aspiring runner with workout footage v-mailed from Trinidad sprinter Ato Boldon before the Web?

Olympians are now more accessible than ever, and just wait until the games begin. Keep in mind that two-thirds of the athletes will be eliminated after only a few days of competition, and many of them will head straight for IBM's Athlete Surf Shack at **FANM@IL**. Athletes packed the Olympic Village's e-mail kiosk back in 1996. In Nagano, 300,000 fan e-mails flooded the shack.

Don't think only the Michael Johnsons and Kevin Garnets will get e-mails at the shack. Plenty of sports are surprisingly popular but don't receive the time of day from mainstream media. The 10 most-visited sports pages at **ABOUT** include rodeo, bodybuilding, horse racing, table tennis, volleyball, and walking. The folks at **FRANCE.SPORTS.COM** (a CBS Sportsline affiliate) report the most traffic by far on the days large handball tournaments are held. But just try catching handball on NBC.

And the Web will engender sports communities where there are none. **SMALL WORLD**, the fantasy site that unearthed NFL fans in 166 countries, plans to create a stock market of Olympic athletes in time for the games: Fans will be able to "buy shares" in a nation's teams or "own" a javelin thrower. It's easy to imagine freaks tuning in to a fencing match when prizes and pride are on the line. "It brings the horse the water," says Small World founder Mark Jacobstein. "Most sports get more interesting the more you know about them."

## THE SPORT RING

For fans of the Big Four (hoops, hockey, football, and baseball), the Web is still a cherry on top—a nice supplement for scores and the occasional chat. But in the amateur ranks, the Internet has quickly been transformed from novelty to necessity.

Consider the afternoon of August 2,



**SPLASH TECHNOLOGY:** Breaststroke champ Kurt Grote dispenses swimming tips online.

1999, at the Santa Clara Swim Center in California, the spot where many U.S. Olympic swimmers train. Just that morning, at the Pan Am Games being held at Winnipeg, in Manitoba, Canada,

a 19-year-old former golf ball shagger from Virginia named Ed Moses had turned in a 100-meter breaststroke time of 1:01:06, the fifth-fastest time in history. The world record is 1:00:60, and Moses had neared that in a prelim. "In one race he dropped over a second," says Grote, whose personal best is 1:01:22. "You see little kids do that, but not grownups."

Moses' incredible swim had taken place only hours before, but Grote and all the other swimmers at the pool in Santa Clara were already in heated discussion about the feat. They had spent the morning sitting at their terminals at home, reloading the official site **USA SWIMMING** again and again. "We didn't even say, 'Did you hear?'" says Grote. "Everyone had."

That evening, Grote booted up in plenty of time for the final. As the breaststroke event drew near, his reloading became frantic. Then Moses'

## WEB 7 TV 0

### 1. All Brandi, All the Time

Why suffer through the men's march to see Ms. Chastain and the rest of the women's soccer team? Brandi's got her own channel, online.

### 2. Web Cams Rule

Diving from the platform. Hoops from the rim. Equestrians from the...you get the idea.

### 3. Whassup, Mary Lou?

Thanks to IBM's "Surf Shack," you can e-mail the athletes while the games are in progress.

### 4. Net Radio Rocks

Devour 24-hour access to broadcasts from all corners of the globe.

### 5. Great Gymnastic Figures

How fast can a shuttlecock flutter? How high can a trampoline gymnast bounce? Pull up fast facts, scores, schedules and the marital status of Italian cyclists.

### 6. Constant Replay

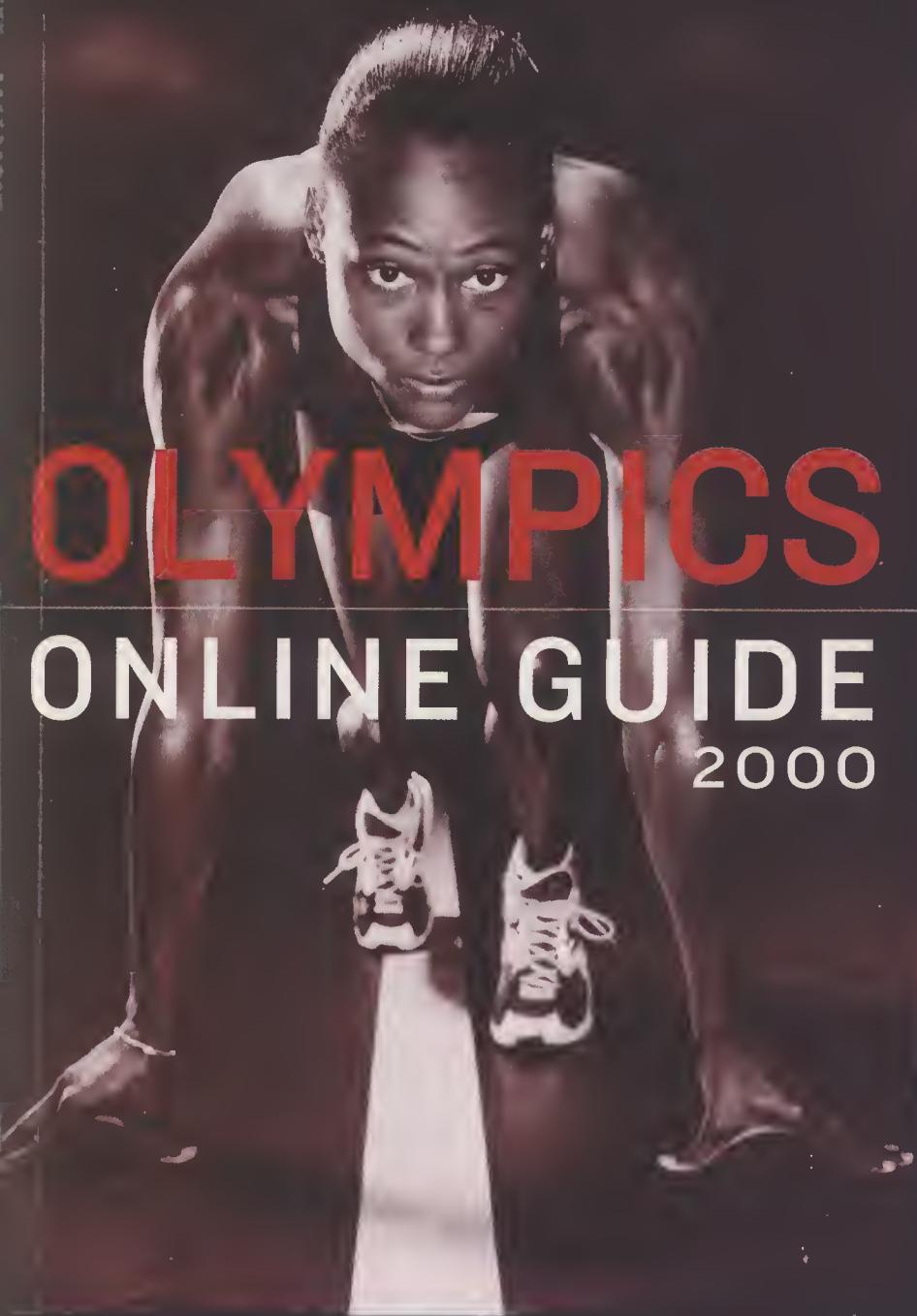
Streaming video means that perfect 10 on the pommel horse, that third-round TKO punch, that cycling pileup disaster over and over.

### 7. No More Jingles

A buzzing banner ad beats three minutes of commercial interference any day.

YAHOO! INTERNET LIFE MAGAZINE

special pullout guide



# OLYMPICS ONLINE GUIDE

2000

	WEDNESDAY 9/13	THURSDAY 9/14	FRIDAY 9/15	SATURDAY 9/16	SUNDAY 9/17	MONDAY 9/18	TUESDAY 9/19	WEDNESDAY 9/20	THURSDAY 9/21
<b>CEREMONIAL EVENTS</b>				NBC 7:30pm-mid Opening Ceremony					
<b>ARCHERY</b>						MSNBC 10am-5pm W: Indiv. final		MSNBC 10am-5pm M: Indiv. final	MSNBC 10am-5pm W: team final
<b>BASEBALL</b>					MSNBC 9am-4pm				
<b>BASKETBALL</b>				NBC 12:30am-2am W: US-Korea	NBC 11am-5pm M: US-China	MSNBC 11am-5pm W: US-Cuba	NBC 12:35am-2:05am M: US-Italy	NBC 7pm-mid W: US-Russia	NBC 12:35am-2:05am M: US-Lithuania MSNBC 5pm-9pm M
<b>BEACH VOLLEYBALL</b>				MSNBC 10am-4pm W	NBC 11am-5pm M				MSNBC 10am-5pm
<b>BOXING</b>				CNBC 4pm-8pm	CNBC 4pm-8pm	CNBC 5pm-9pm	CNBC 5pm-9pm		CNBC 5pm-9pm
<b>CANOEING-KAYAK</b>					NBC 11am-5pm				
<b>CYCLING</b>					CNBC 4pm-8pm Track final		CNBC 5pm-9pm Track cycling	CNBC 12:35am-2:05am Track cycling	MSNBC 10am-5pm Track final
<b>DIVING</b>									
<b>EQUESTRIAN</b>				MSNBC 9am-4pm 3-day team and dressage comp.	NBC 7pm-mid 3-day team and X-country comp.	NBC 7pm-mid 3-day team and jumping comp.			NBC 7pm-mid 3-day team and X-country comp.
<b>GYMNASTICS</b>				NBC 7pm-mid M: team comp.	NBC 7pm-mid W: team comp.	NBC 7pm-mid M: Indv. all-around	NBC 7pm-mid W: Indv. all-around	NBC 7pm-mid W: Indv. all-around	NBC 7pm-mid W: Indv. all-around
<b>ROWING</b>					NBC 10am-noon 7pm-mid M, W:ights	NBC 10am-noon	NBC 10am-noon	NBC 10am-noon	NBC 10am-noon
<b>SOCCER</b>	MSNBC 6:30pm-8pm M: US-Czech Republic	MSNBC 6:30pm-9pm W: US-Norway		MSNBC 10am-4pm M: US-Cameroun	MSNBC 9am-4pm W: US-China	MSNBC 10am-5pm M: US-Kuwait	MSNBC 10am-5pm W: US-Nigeria		
<b>SOFTBALL</b>					MSNBC 9am-4pm US-Canada	MSNBC 10am-5pm US-Cuba	MSNBC 10am-5pm US-Japan	CNBC 5am-9pm US-China	MSNBC 10am-5pm US-Australia
<b>SWIMMING</b>					NBC 4:30pm-6pm; 7pm-mid Finals: M: 400m free W: 400m IM	NBC 10am-noon; 7pm-mid Finals: M: 100m breast W: 100m fly	NBC 10am-noon; 7pm-mid Finals: M: 200m free W: 100m breast	NBC 10am-noon; 7pm-mid Finals: M: 100m free W: 200m free	NBC 10am-noon; 7pm-mid Finals: M: 200m back W: 100m free
<b>SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING</b>									
<b>TENNIS</b>							CNBC 5pm-9pm	MSNBC 10am-5pm	MSNBC 10am-5pm
<b>TRACK &amp; FIELD</b>									
<b>TRIATHLON</b>					NBC 7pm-mid W	NBC 7pm-mid M			
<b>VOLLEYBALL</b>					NBC 12:30am-2am W	NBC 12:30am-2am M	NBC 12:35am-2:05am		NBC 12:35am-2:05am W
<b>WATER POLO</b>					MSNBC 10am-4pm W	CNBC 4pm-9pm W	MSNBC 10am-5pm W		
<b>WEIGHTLIFTING</b>					NBC 7pm-mid M: flyweight final	CNBC 4pm-9pm W: final	CNBC 5pm-9pm W		
<b>WRESTLING</b>									

Note: Some events listed represent items of special interest during hours of broader coverage. At press time, schedules omitted some sports or indicated only sporadic coverage. CNBC plans to air highlights from each day's sailing events; MSNBC will air the table tennis finals on Sept. 24 and 25.

FRIDAY 9/22	SATURDAY 9/23	SUNDAY 9/24	MONDAY 9/25	TUESDAY 9/26	WEDNESDAY 9/27	THURSDAY 9/28	FRIDAY 9/29	SATURDAY 9/30	SUNDAY 10/1
									NBC 7p-mid Closing Ceremony
	MSNBC 10am-4pm US-Cubs	MSNBC 10am-4pm		MSNBC 10am-5pm	MSNBC 10am-5pm Final				
	NBC noon-8pm M: US-New Zealand	MSNBC 10am-4pm W: US-Poland	CNBC 5am-8pm M: US-France		NBC 12:35am-2:05am	NBC 12:35am-2:05am M	NBC 7pm-mid: M: 12:35am- 2:05am; W: MSNBC 10am-5pm M: W	NBC noon-8pm W: final 7pm-mid M: final	
MSNBC 10am-5pm M	NBC noon-8pm W	MSNBC 10am-4pm M	NBC 10am-noon W	MSNBC 10am-5pm M					
CNBC 5pm-9pm	CNBC 4pm-9pm	CNBC 4pm-9pm		CNBC 5pm-8pm	NBC 12:35am-2:05am CNBC 5pm-9pm	CNBC 5pm-9pm	CNBC 4pm-9pm Final	NBC 10am-6pm Final	NBC 10am-6pm Final
					NBC 10am-noon		MSNBC 10am-5pm	NBC noon-5pm Final	NBC 10am-6pm Final
	NBC 7pm-mid W: mountain bike	NBC 12:30am-2am M: mountain bike		NBC 7pm-mid W: road race	NBC 7pm-mid M: road race			NBC noon-6pm W: time trial 7pm-mid M: time trial	
MSNBC 7pm-mid W: platform comp.	NBC noon-8pm W: spring synch final 7pm-mid: M: platform synch final	NBC 10am-6pm; 7pm-mid W: platform final	NBC 7pm-mid M: springboard	NBC 10am-noon 7pm-mid M: springboard final	MSNBC 10am-5pm Gymnastics comp.	MSNBC 10am-5pm Oregease final	NBC 10am-noon; 7pm-mid M: platform comp.	NBC 7pm-mid M: platform final	NBC 10am-6pm Indv. jumping final
MSNBC 7pm-mid W: trampoline final	NBC noon-8pm M: trampoline final	NBC 7pm-mid M, W: Indiv. final	NBC 7pm-mid W: Indiv. event final	NBC 7pm-mid Champions Gala		MSNBC 10am-5pm Team jumping final	NBC 10am-5pm	NBC noon-8pm Rhythmic comp.	NBC 10am-6pm Rhythmic final
MSNBC 10am-5pm	NBC noon-8pm Final	NBC 10am-6pm 7pm-mid Final (lights)						NBC 10am-6pm Rhythmic final	NBC 10am-6pm Rhythmic final
	MSNBC 10am-4pm: M CNBC 4pm-6pm: M	NBC 10am-6pm: W CNBC 4pm-6pm		MSNBC 10am-5pm CNBC 5pm-9pm		MSNBC 10am-5pm W: final		MSNBC 10am-4pm M: final	
	MSNBC 10am-4pm US-Italy		MSNBC 10am-5pm	NBC 10am-noon Final					
NBC 10am-noon; 7pm-mid Finals: M, W: 4x100m fly M: 100m fly W: 200m back	NBC 7pm-mid Finals: M, W: 4x100m medley		NBC 10am-6pm Duet comp.	NBC 7pm-mid Duet final		NBC 7pm-mid	NBC 7pm-mid Team final		
	CNBC 4pm-9pm: M MSNBC 10am-5pm	MSNBC 10am-5pm	MSNBC 10am-5pm	MSNBC 10am-5pm	MSNBC 10am-5pm W: singles final CNBC 5pm-9pm M: doubles final	MSNBC 10am-5pm W: singles final CNBC 5pm-9pm M: doubles final			
NBC 10am-noon; 7pm-mid Fines: M: shot put	NBC noon-8pm; 7pm-mid Finals: M, W: 100m	NBC 10am-8pm; 7pm-mid Finals: M: high jump	NBC 10am-noon; 7pm-mid; 2:35am-2:05am Finals: M, W: 400m hurdle Decathlon	NBC 10am-noon; 7pm-mid; 2:35am-2:05am Finals: M, W: 400m hurdle Decathlon	NBC 10am-noon; 7pm-mid; 2:35am-2:05am M, W: 400m Decathlon	NBC 10am-noon; 7pm-mid; 2:35am-2:05am M, W: 200m Decathlon	NBC 10am-noon; 7pm-mid; 2:35am-2:05am M, W: 400m; W: long jump	NBC 7pm-mid Finals: M: 100m W: 4x100m; 4x400m	NBC 7pm-mid M: marathon
NBC 12:35am-2:05am US M game	NBC 12:30am-2am US M game	MSNBC 10am-4pm W		MSNBC 10am-5pm				NBC noon-5pm W: final	NBC 10am-6pm M: final
	CNBC 4pm-9pm: M MSNBC 10am-5pm		MSNBC 10am-5pm M	NBC 12:35am-2:05am M	CNBC 5pm-9pm M		MSNBC 10am-5pm M	MSNBC 10am-4pm: M CNBC 4pm-6pm	MSNBC 8am-11am M: bronze, gold medal matches
NBC 12:35am-2:05am MSNBC 10am-5pm		NBC 12:30am-2am M: final	CNBC 5pm-9pm M: final	NBC 7pm-mid M: super-heavy- weight final			NBC 12:35am-2:05am	NBC 12:35am-2:05am Greco-Roman final	NBC noon-8pm 12:30am-2am Freestyle final
				NBC 12:35am-2:05am Greco-Roman final	NBC 12:35am-2:05am Greco-Roman final		NBC 12:35am-2:05am	NBC noon-8pm 12:30am-2am Freestyle final	NBC 10am-6pm Freestyle final

# THE ESSENTIALS

VITAL SITES FOR TOTAL IMMERSION IN THE 2000 OLYMPICS

## SYDNEY 2000: THE OFFICIAL SITE

[olympics.com](http://olympics.com)

Done in a fetching blue by IBM, the tech partner of Sydney 2000, this site earns its billing as your "virtual seat at...the games" with its terrific breadth and depth. Each sport comes complete with a section for highlights, records, history, and "step-by-step technical details," as well as a glossary and a downloadable application that creates a real-time scoreboard on your desktop. Olympics.com nails the overall Olympics experience, which it certainly should: IBM anticipates more than a billion page views, which would make it the most trafficked site in history.



## NBCOLYMPICS.COM

[nbcolympics.com](http://nbcolympics.com)

The best spot for the sports purist. All the basics are here: daily news, features, and results (with snippets of video). Plus, the benefits of being in bed with NBC Sports: the best TV schedule online, along with commentary from peacock-network pundits, who are on hand to answer questions. The Athlete's Voice section trumps TV's "Up Close and Personal" profiles by a long shot, with first-person text and audio dispatches from various competitors.

## CNN/SI: SYDNEY 2000

[cnnsi.com/olympics](http://cnnsi.com/olympics)

Unsurpassed photography, top-notch writing, the *Sports Illustrated* Olympic Almanac, and a high quotient of pure Internet content distinguish this site from the rest of the major contenders, which include **USA TODAY: OLYMPICS** [[usatoday.com/olympics/oly.htm](http://usatoday.com/olympics/oly.htm)], **ESPN.COM**, and **CBS SPORTS-LINE.COM** [[sportsline.com](http://sportsline.com)]. But they're all good—it just depends on which megamedia brand you fancy. And if you're on AOL, go to keyword: *sports* and join the lively Olympic chats and message boards.

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Guide compiled by Ed Lovett

COVER PHOTO OF MARION JONES  
BY MICHAEL O'NEILL/CORBIS OUTLINE

## RADIO AUSTRALIA

[www.abc.net.au/ra](http://www.abc.net.au/ra)

Until the IOC's attitude toward the Net shifts from fear to acceptance, no streaming live video of the games is allowed. This site offers the next-best thing, with up to 16 hours of live broadcast every day.

## AN OLYMPIC GAMES PRIMER

[aafla.org/OlympicInformationCenter/OlympicPrimer/OlympicPrimer.htm](http://aafla.org/OlympicInformationCenter/OlympicPrimer/OlympicPrimer.htm)

Why the five rings? What's up with the torch? Why the fuss over Lake Placid? Informative stuff on all things Olympic, plus a bibliography for further study.

## USOLYMPICTEAM.COM

[usolympicteam.com](http://usolympicteam.com)

Your best bet for e-commerce, with a good selection and proceeds going to U.S. Olympic Committee programs. Links to all sports federations.

## WE MEDIA

[wemedia.com](http://wemedia.com)

Full Webcast coverage of the Paralympics, the games for disabled athletes (to be held October 18-29).

## CNN.COM: WORLD TIME

[cnn.com/weather/worldtime](http://cnn.com/weather/worldtime)

A handy map tells you what time it is in Sydney—or anywhere else in the world.



JOSÉ AZELO/AURORA

## TRACK & FIELD

### ESSENTIAL SITE

#### USA TRACK & FIELD [usatf.org](http://usatf.org)

The most-watched Olympic sport has an appropriately terrific site—packed with news (current and archived), athlete bios (past and present), and stats and records galore (dig into the Numerology section). Hard-core fans can also consult the sport's rule book, should the need arise as you take in the action in Sydney.

### HOME GROWN SITE

#### THE HURDLER'S DOMAIN

[hurdling.com](http://hurdling.com)

The coveted [hurdling.com](http://hurdling.com) URL goes to Justine Lam, aka the Hurdleress, who makes the most of her domain with this award-winning site. Find hurdler bios, photos, cartoons, an active chatroom, and, naturally, a good links page. But it's the poetry—"Running Towards It / Knowing You Will Not Fall / Five-stepping"—that takes this one over the top.

### WILD-CARD SITE

#### THE ATHLETICS SITE [www.athletix.gr](http://www.athletix.gr)

Thank the Greeks for the tradition of track and field itself—and thank this excellent site for keeping tabs on the sport non-Yanks call "athletics." News, stats, and bios, plus a photo gallery and great links, all with a truly international scope. (Though the site is based in Greece, the text appears in English.)

## SWIMMING

### ESSENTIAL SITE

#### USA SWIMMING [usswim.org](http://usswim.org)

The showdown between the U.S. and Australia should be riveting. Brush up with this site's real-time news and results, bios, records, and history, including an Olympics section with all-time medalists. There's also info on the drug issue, along with forums and chats, sports science, and KidPool.

### HOME GROWN SITE

#### THE AMY VAN DYKEN PAGE

[geocities.com/colosseum/8361/](http://geocities.com/colosseum/8361/)

[amyindex.html](http://amyindex.html)

You've seen the Wheaties box. Now feast your eyes on a great fan page devoted to Amy Van Dyken, the only American woman to win four golds in one Olympic season. Its creator, Eric Hessler, is hopelessly devoted and promises regular updates plus "a few bonuses" during the games.

### WILD-CARD SITE

#### SWIMMERSWORLD.COM

[swimmersworld.com](http://swimmersworld.com)

A searchable news archive and a swimming-only search engine set this one apart from a sea of solid swim sites. Use the "taper calculator" (or just learn what it is), or scan the Coaching Jobs section for a career change.

## DIVING

### ESSENTIAL SITE

**USDIVING.ORG** [usdiving.org](http://usdiving.org)

All the basics, including a history of what used to be called "fancy diving." Updated results and news from the games, previews of upcoming rounds, complete team rosters, and bios of our men and women in Speedos.

### HOME GROWN SITE

**GREG LOUGANIS**

[louganis.com](http://louganis.com)

A reminder of a time when the U.S. didn't get crushed by China in this popular water sport. Photos of Greg, plus "a complete guide to having a dog in your life" from this diver-cum-dog lover.

### WILD-CARD SITE

**ABC NEWS ONLINE: DIVING**

[abc.net.au/news/olympics/sports/diving.htm](http://abc.net.au/news/olympics/sports/diving.htm)

Don't worry, Sam Donaldson's not covering the Olympics. It's the Australian Broadcasting Company, and this site details the debut of synchronized diving at these Olympic Games (including the answer to such questions as: Why?). Also, learn what a pike is.

## GYMNASICS

### ESSENTIAL SITE

**USA GYMNASTICS ONLINE**

[usa-gymnastics.org](http://usa-gymnastics.org)

Great coverage of the trampoline, as well as of artistic and rhythmic gymnastics (it also explains the difference). Bios, history, links to athletes' sites, and a section on scoring and rules round out the TV schedule and online store. And for the *truly* obsessed—a fantasy gymnastics game.

### HOME GROWN SITE

**BIG UN'S WORLD OF GYMNASTICS**

[geocities.com/colosseum/track/I877/gymnastics](http://geocities.com/colosseum/track/I877/gymnastics)

Big Un, né Bryan DeNosky, packs a forum, chat, some inspiring quotations, and a page called How to Achieve Great Handstands. When you're done you can check out his companion site: Big Un's World of Christianity.

### WILD-CARD SITE

**FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE GYMNASTIQUE**

[www.gymnastics.worldsport.com](http://www.gymnastics.worldsport.com)

More gymnastics from the world abroad, with a Hall of Fame and an archive of news and results.

## ARCHERY

### ESSENTIAL SITE

**INTERNATIONAL ARCHERY FEDERATION** [www.archery.org](http://www.archery.org)

Geena Davis failed to make the U.S. team, leaving media outlets everywhere crushed. Read about her attempt and other archery news here. Updated results, rules, world rankings, and exclusive diary dispatches from British archer Alison Williamson. (Davis: dead last at 264th on April 1.)

## Couch Potato Essentials

Nutritional supplements for the stationary champion. taurants," pretty much sums it up.

### AOL TRAVEL:

**MAPS & DIRECTIONS**

[aolsvc.maps.aol.com/travel](http://aolsvc.maps.aol.com/travel)

Americans and geography? Not a pretty match. Use the Olympics, and this site, as a way to get to know from whence all those athletes hail.

### THE YOGA SITE

[yogasite.com](http://yogasite.com)

Muscles atrophying? Tip: The "cobra" posture in front of the tube is excellent for viewing.

### MODERN HUMORIST

[modernhumorist.com](http://modernhumorist.com)

With a satirical look at the very serious business of the XXVII Olympiad. Aussies beware.



## HOME GROWN SITE

### ANGUS'S ARCHERY PAGE

[www.dcs.ed.ac.uk/home/ajcd/archery](http://www.dcs.ed.ac.uk/home/ajcd/archery)

This archery portal is a personal tribute to the bow and arrow by one bull's eye—crazy Scot. It covers every aspect of the sport, from records and rankings to "archery patents." If it's not here, it's amid the bonny links.

## WILD-CARD SITE

### THE NATIONAL ARCHERY ASSOCIATION

[usarchery.org](http://usarchery.org)

The home of archery in the U.S., with a good Olympics section featuring a list of all American medalists in history, photos and bios of our team, and views of Sydney's archery venue.

## SOCcer

## ESSENTIAL SITE

### ESPN.COM: SOCCER

[espn.com/soccer](http://espn.com/soccer)

Offers the combination you'd expect from America's leading sports network: well-presented news and sharp commentary. Highlights: club and league rankings, chats with stars, and insightful analyses from *ESPN* magazine soccer scribe Jeff Bradley, among others.

## WILD-CARD SITE

### INTERNETSOCCER.COM

[internetsoccer.com](http://internetsoccer.com)

"Connecting the soccer world" is the aim of this portal. Good community features, such as international pen pals—as well as unsurpassed coverage of Olympic qualifiers—set it apart in a crowded field. Bonuses: good women's soccer coverage and, for true addicts, soccer news formatted for your PDA.

## BASKETBALL

## ESSENTIAL SITE

### USABASKETBALL.COM

[usabasketball.com](http://usabasketball.com)

Since 1992 in Barcelona, Olympic hoops has been a contest for silver, with America's dream teams making all others look like the Washington Generals. This site gives the scoop on the women's squad as well, which might actually need your support.

## HOME GROWN SITE

### "SOVIETS GIVEN 3 SHOTS TO SNATCH OLYMPIC GOLD"

[sptimes.com/News/I22099/Sports/](http://sptimes.com/News/I22099/Sports/)

[Soviets\\_given\\_3\\_shots.shtml](http://Soviets_given_3_shots.shtml)

A sportswriter's analysis of one of the most bizarre and bitter Olympics moments ever,

## The Games of Old

Spots where you can study up on the rich history of a classic contest.

### THE ANCIENT OLYMPICS

[www.perseus.tufts.edu/](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/)

Olympics

Most of us know that the modern Olympics derive from ancient Greece, but that's about

it. Anyone who wants to dig deeper should visit this online exhibit.

Compare the games of then and now to trace the similarities ("huge numbers of visitors" and "food vendors selling their wares") and differences ("well-known philosophers and poetry recitals").



### THE REAL STORY OF THE ANCIENT OLYMPIC GAMES

[www.upenn.edu/museum/Olympics/olympicintro.html](http://www.upenn.edu/museum/Olympics/olympicintro.html)

Another scholarly yet accessible source, this site dispels the misconception that the modern Olympics have corrupted their pure ancient counterpart with commercialism and politics. For further study or Socratic dialogue, consult the Ancient Olympics glossary and FAQs here.

### THE GREEK ATHLETIC GAMES

[www.princeton.edu/~grevelle](http://www.princeton.edu/~grevelle)

An overview of the ancient also-rans: the Pythian, Nemean, and Isthmian games. Plus, descriptions of ancient Olympic events, such as *pankration*, or "complete victory." The fight had three rules: No biting; no gouging out eyes or ears; and if a competitor broke the rules he would be beaten by an official with a stick.



DAVID LIAH/ALLSPORT

when three blown calls allowed the Soviets (remember them?) to beat the U.S. in the final game at Munich in 1972. This man has issues.

**WILD-CARD SITE**  
**ABC NEWS ONLINE: BASKETBALL**  
[www.abc.net.au/news/olympics/sports/basketball.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/news/olympics/sports/basketball.htm)

A good intro to the sport. Created by (Canadian!) James Naismith, the site includes rules and history. It has coverage that's less smugly jingoistic than many other online spots, so you can get smart about teams other than the U.S. Check out the multimedia content too, with audio snippets from commentators.

## SOFTBALL

**ESSENTIAL SITE**  
**USASOFTBALL.COM** [usasoftball.com](http://usasoftball.com)

The place to start as you gear up for the U.S. team to repeat its gold medal performance in Atlanta (and maybe the place to seek solace if there's an upset). The site tags all the bases: roster, bios, schedule, stats, and, yes, a store.

**HOME GROWN SITE**  
**DOT RICHARDSON ENTERPRISES INC.** [www.drshortstop.com](http://www.drshortstop.com)

Dot herself greets you when you load this rich site about the U.S.'s star player, who, despite the URL, will be at second base in Sydney. Joining Club Dot makes you a Diamond

who's welcome to chat in the Diamond Room (and why not?). Extra bonus: softball tips.

**WILD-CARD SITE**  
**TEAMZ.COM:**  
**SOFTBALLSEARCH.COM**  
[softballsearch.com](http://softballsearch.com)

A "strictly softball search engine" for the hardcore fan or player. Call it a B2C2S Net play.

## BASEBALL

**ESSENTIAL SITE**  
**USA BASEBALL** [usabaseball.com](http://usabaseball.com)

Irony: Our teams win the World Series but lose at the Olympics. Why? Because our pro players have never been allowed to compete. Pros are welcome this year for the first time, but Major League Baseball, pointing out that the Olympic Games take place during the pennant race, nixed the idea. Still, manager Tommy Lasorda will have minor-leaguers and some retired ringers, like, uh, world-dominating power pitcher Tom Candiotti. Learn more at this thorough site and root, root, root for the home team against contenders such as Cuba (which won the past two golds) and Japan.

**HOME GROWN SITE**  
**JOHN SKILTON'S BASEBALL LINKS**  
[baseball-links.com](http://baseball-links.com)  
Skilton claims to have compiled the Web's



AFP/CORBIS

most comprehensive collection of links to baseball resources, and he's right. His more than 7,000 links will satisfy your every craving for chaw-stained content.

#### WILD-CARD SITE **BASEBALL AMERICA ONLINE**

[baseballamerica.com](http://baseballamerica.com)

Despite the odd, Tolkiennesque font, solid reportage on the international baseball scene.

## BOXING

#### ESSENTIAL SITE **USA BOXING**

[www.usaboxing.org](http://www.usaboxing.org)

Muhammad Ali won the gold in 1960; maybe one of our lads is headed for stardom now. Since few women watch this gentle sport, it tends to get shortchanged on TV. Follow it online at this site, full of U.S. team member info, rankings, and history.

#### HOME GROWN SITE **AMATEUR BOXING NEWS**

[www.amateur-boxing.com](http://www.amateur-boxing.com)

The Boxing Grandma, who runs this site, is clearly one woman watching her share of boxing. Melanie Ley, who with "hubbie Rick" covers every aspect of Olympic-style boxing via a Q&A forum, FAQs, and rankings, says she'll post Olympics results as they happen.

## TENNIS

#### ESSENTIAL SITE **OLYMPIC TENNIS 2000**

[www.tennisgold.com](http://www.tennisgold.com)

Another U.S.-Aussie battle will decide whether Andre Agassi can defend his 1996 gold against Rafter, Philippoussis, and golden boy Lleyton Hewitt. Lindsay Davenport will try to repeat as well. Get the scoop here: schedules and draw, archived news, an Olympics time line, and a look at the New South Wales Tennis Centre.

#### HOME GROWN SITE **LEANDER PAES**

[www.its.uci.edu/~jaykay/leander.html](http://www.its.uci.edu/~jaykay/leander.html)

An informative and refreshingly subdued fan site devoted to India's top player and the Atlanta bronze medalist (he lost only to Agassi). His achievement set off a wild celebration in India, where 5,000 people met him at the airport at 4 A.M. A good guy to cheer on.

## ROWING

#### ESSENTIAL SITE **USRWOWING** [www.usrowing.org](http://www.usrowing.org)

They've taken the past three world championships, and once again the U.S. men are favored in the marquee event, the eight.

## Wired Athletes

The gold medal contenders among sites devoted to one athlete.

### THE OFFICIAL VANESSA ATLER WEB SITE

[atler.com](#)

Fans of this U.S. gymnast love the site's Dear Diary page, which Vanessa updates regularly. Also popular is the randomness page, showcasing artwork and letters sent by admirers of this flexible lady.

### THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF ATO BOLDON

[atoboldon.com](#)

From Trinidad by way of the U.S., Boldon is a top sprinter to watch in Sydney. He's also one Web-savvy Olympian. This spiffy site guarantees that those who "ask Ato" will get a response from the man himself.

### DONOVAN BAILEY OFFICIAL WEB SITE

[donovanbailey.com](#)

This started out as a fan site for the 1996 100-meter gold medalist from Canada. Then Bailey's agent had the fan, Joe Dawson, turn it into the official site. Good call: This is a well-designed and complete resource for fans of Bailey and of track in general. Find archived news, bio, chat, boards, images, links, screen saver—you name it.

Read all about it at this site's big Olympics section. Detailed stats on our fellas' schedule, roster, bios, Olympic rowing history—and many victories.

### HOME GRDN SITE THE COXSWAIN CAFÉ

[fly.to/coxswaincafe](#)

The coxswain is the small, loud person at the stern of the boat who steers and motivates the rowers—and hence is the team's secret weapon. Perhaps you fell in love with one in college. This is the place to learn more about the special cult of the coxswain.

### WILD-CARD SITE ROW2K [row2k.com](#)

"Rowing's Home on the Net" promises "full-on coverage" from Sydney, including up-to-the-minute results, interviews, photos, gossip, and maybe some video and audio. Also features a special chatroom and active message boards. Read what people are saying about iron-Brit Steve Redgrave's fifth straight Olympics.

## WATER POLO

### ESSENTIAL SITE A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING WATER POLO

[uswp.org/guidetowp.html](#)

Water polo is dominated by Europe (it's *Wasserball* in Germany). It's also incomprehensible until you learn the rules. So, unless you don't care—and you just like to see hairless men in bathing caps (and who doesn't?)—hit this site. Then go to [usawaterpolo.com](#) to check out the American team (best name: Wolf Wigo). Root for the females too, in the debut of women's water polo at the Olympics.

### WILD-CARD SITE H2O POLO

[h2opolocom](#)

A good community site where users create the content, such as a huge links page and the Eggbeaters Forum, a daily compilation of news, commentary, and "road trip stories" from the wet and wild world of water polo. Splashy.



# The Politics of the Olympics

Online excursions into the political side of the games.

## THE OLYMPIC MUSEUM: PIERRE DE COUBERTIN

[museum.olympic.org/e/gallery/permanent/cou\\_bio\\_e.html](http://museum.olympic.org/e/gallery/permanent/cou_bio_e.html)

Pierre de Coubertin, the architect of the modern Olympics, embodied the link between the Olympics and politics. Believing sports to be "the springboard for moral energy," he started the Olympic movement to help revitalize France after its bitter 1871 defeat in the Fran-



## 1972 MUNICH MASSACRE

[jf-stockholm.org/munich/english.html](http://jf-stockholm.org/munich/english.html)

A thoughtful memorial to the Israeli athletes and coaches who were killed by Palestinian terrorists, with details about what happened and links for further reading.

AP/WIDEWORLD PHOTOS

co-Prussian War. This is the place to learn about the man and his Olympic dream.

## THE NAZI OLYMPICS BERLIN 1936

[ushmm.org/olympics](http://ushmm.org/olympics)  
The online version of an exhibit at the U.S. Holo-

caust Memorial Museum in Washington, this tasteful site soberly recounts the Olympics' darkest hour, when Hitler turned sports into racist propaganda with chilling success. Features include well-chosen photography and solid writing.

## POLITICS AND THE OLYMPICS

[www.ausport.gov.au/pol.html](http://www.ausport.gov.au/pol.html)

A time line of the points in Olympic history when athletics and realpolitik have intersected most notably. See why some still curse Jimmy Carter.

## SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING

### ESSENTIAL SITE

#### SYNCHRO SWIMMING USA

[usasynchro.org](http://usasynchro.org)

Synchro is a much maligned event that just wants to be understood—so dive in at this thorough site full of bios, schedules, and photos. The U.S. team comes from two rival Northern California clubs: the Santa Clara Aquamaids and the Walnut Creek Aquanuts. Track them via updated results as they try to hang on to U.S. synchro dominance.

### WILD-CARD SITE

#### ABC NEWS ONLINE:

#### SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING

[abc.net.au/news/olympics/sports/synchro.htm](http://abc.net.au/news/olympics/sports/synchro.htm)

Read about the sport's roots—firmly embedded in old Esther Williams Hollywood "aqua musicals." Then preview the action in Sydney, along with one intrepid reporter's attempts to master this oddly graceful art form.

## CYCLING

### ESSENTIAL SITE

#### USA CYCLING ONLINE

[usacycling.org](http://usacycling.org)

Aussie grinch Rupert Murdoch allegedly "encouraged" the organizers to change the road-race course so that it steers clear of his Fox Studios (talk about a phantom menace). Read up on this contest as well as the track and mountain bike competitions here. Daily reports, personality pieces, Olympic history, and insights from coaches and athletes.

### HOME-GROWN SITE

#### LANCE ARMSTRONG ON-LINE!

[lancearmstrong.com](http://lancearmstrong.com)

If it's homegrown at all, it's hydroponic; this is one slick site devoted to the U.S.A.'s inspiring cycling star, who hopes to take the gold in Sydney. Expect e-mail dispatches from Lance—a laptop-lovin' Net freak, apparently—as well as Lance-related news from various sources. And of course you can buy his book, *It's Not About the Bike*, a moving saga of survival.

## TABLE TENNIS

### ESSENTIAL SITE

#### NBCOLYMPICS.COM: TABLE TENNIS

[nbcolympics.com](http://nbcolympics.com) (Select "Table Tennis" from pull-down menu)

A far cry from what we like to call Ping-Pong, Olympic table tennis boasts ball speeds up to 100 mph. Thankfully, Forrest Gump is nowhere to be found.

### WILD-CARD SITE

#### ABOUT: TABLE TENNIS/ PING-PONG

[tabletennis.about.com/sports/tabletennis](http://tabletennis.about.com/sports/tabletennis)

Click on Rules to learn about "the expedite system," which keeps deadlocked matches from dragging on and on (has the International Cricket Council seen this rule yet?). Links to all kinds of table tennis sites too, if you can't get enough.

## SAILING

### ESSENTIAL SITE

#### US SAILING [ussailing.org](http://ussailing.org)

Often a poor cousin at the Olympics, sailing will take center stage in Sydney Harbor, where the U.S. will try to add to its proud record. Learn more about the team, the boat classes, and the history of Olympic sailing. Tip for rewarding viewing: Check the ABC

sailing page for race rules. [[abc.net.au/news/olympics/sports/sailing.htm](http://abc.net.au/news/olympics/sports/sailing.htm)]

### HOME-GROWN SITE

#### NAUTICAL KNOW HOW: BOATING BASICS GLOSSARY OF TERMS

[tcmall.com/nauticalknowhow/glossary.htm](http://tcmall.com/nauticalknowhow/glossary.htm)

A glossary of the arcane lingo of sailing, so you know your starboard from your port.

### WILD-CARD SITE

#### INTERNATIONAL SAILING FEDERATION [sailing.org](http://sailing.org)

Lots of useful content here for the sailing aficionado, such as course maps, rules, links, and rankings.

## TRIATHLON

### ESSENTIAL SITE

#### TRIATHLONLIVE.COM

[triathlonlive.com](http://triathlonlive.com)

The triathlon's Olympic debut will open the games in the spectacular setting of Sydney Harbor. Here's hoping the sharks cooperate (organizers are optimistic). This site will have you pumped and primed with its own content as well as stories culled from across the Web.

### WILD-CARD SITE

#### USA TRIATHLON [usatriathlon.org](http://usatriathlon.org)

A worthy site, even though the U.S. team isn't top-shelf. Rules, history, glossary, rank-



DAVID MADISON/STONE



ADAM PRETTY/ALLSPORT

ings, results, and a viewer's guide, plus athletes' diaries during the games.

## VOLLEYBALL

### ESSENTIAL SITE

#### USA VOLLEYBALL

[usavolleyball.org](http://usavolleyball.org)

Expect some radical changes to the game in this Olympiad: points scored every rally; a new position, the "libero"; and more. One of the best-designed national association sites, serving up news, schedules, rankings, merchandise, and links. Also covers beach volleyball, which will take place on Sydney's famed Bondi Beach.

### HOME GROWN SITE

#### SCHNEID'S VOLLEYBALL PAGE

[home.xnet.com/~schneid/volleyball.html](http://home.xnet.com/~schneid/volleyball.html)

Volleyball terms, rules, strategy, and tips on building your own sand court.

## BADMINTON

### ESSENTIAL SITE

#### INTERNATIONAL BADMINTON FEDERATION

[www.intbadfed.org](http://www.intbadfed.org)

The world's fastest racket sport, with shuttlecock (please, not *birdie*) speeds of up to 200 mph, badminton earns some of the highest

global TV ratings because of its huge popularity in Asia. This site has all you need to bone up on the sport, as well as the draw and seeds for Sydney and live, comprehensive match reports.

### WILD-CARD SITE

#### WORLD BADMINTON ONLINE

[www.worldbadminton.net](http://www.worldbadminton.net)

Here you'll find solid news and other features, such as a photo gallery and interviews with top players.

## WEIGHT LIFTING

### ESSENTIAL SITE

#### USA WEIGHTLIFTING

[usaweightlifting.org](http://usaweightlifting.org)

Women will compete for the first time, and the U.S. squad should do well. Get pumped here: news, records, and intros, so you know the difference between *snatch* and *clean and jerk*: "Snatch some great gear" at the store.

### HOME GROWN SITE

#### NAIM

[www.seas.gwu.edu/~ozgur/interests/moving/naim.htm](http://www.seas.gwu.edu/~ozgur/interests/moving/naim.htm)

A well-written tribute to Naim Suleymanoglu, aka Pocket Hercules—a 4-foot-11 Turk who in Atlanta became the first weight lifter to win three gold medals. A heartwarming story of staggering smallness.

## CANOE/KAYAK

### ESSENTIAL SITE

**NBCOLYMPICS.COM:**

**CANOE/KAYAK** [nbcolympics.com](http://nbcolympics.com) (Select "Canoe-Kayak" from pull-down menu)

Dominated by Europeans at the moment, these are exciting sports. This site is loaded with information about canoes and kayaks: the basics, news, schedules, and analyses from NBC commentators. Fine photos and a lively community too.

## SHOOTING

### ESSENTIAL SITE

**NBCOLYMPICS.COM: SHOOTING**

[nbcolympics.com](http://nbcolympics.com) (Select "Shooting" from pull-down menu)

In the Paris 1900 Olympics, live pigeons were shot; if the Libertarians are running the games, maybe the New York 2012 committee will bring that back. Trap, skeet, pistol, shotgun: All you need to know about the various types of events is here, as well as features on things such as "the shooting uniform."

## FIELD HOCKEY

### ESSENTIAL SITE

**ABC NEWS ONLINE: HOCKEY**

[abc.net.au/news/olympics/sports/hockey.htm](http://abc.net.au/news/olympics/sports/hockey.htm)

Simply *hockey* to the rest of the world, this Olympic sport isn't preppy girls in plaid skirts. The U.S. didn't qualify in men's or women's, but, hey, root for the favored Australian teams—the women's Hockeyroos or the men's Kookaburras—both meticulously covered by this informative site.

## TAE KWON DO

### ESSENTIAL SITE

**GENERAL TAEKWONDO**

**INFORMATION**

[barrel.net/contents.html](http://barrel.net/contents.html)

Tae kwon do—"the art of kicking and punching"—debuts as an Olympic sport this year. This is a comprehensive site about the Korean favorites as they kick-punch the U.S. best.

## FENCING

### ESSENTIAL SITE

**FENCING.NET** [www.fencing.net](http://www.fencing.net)

Look for clear masks to make this historic Olympic sport more telegraphic. The site explains the differences among foil, épée, and sabre, and assesses the competition.

## JUDO

### ESSENTIAL SITE

**INTERNATIONAL JUDO FEDERATION**

[ijf.org](http://ijf.org)

Vladimir Putin adores judo, and you can too,

## Olympics Collector Madness



### OLYMPIC PIN COLLECTING

[home.earthlink.net/~zola/pin.html](http://home.earthlink.net/~zola/pin.html)

Zola, creator of this site, predicts that Sydney will cause another outbreak of pin fever. Catch it here. A good intro to the pin scene, should you need one.

### SYDNEY 2000 OLYMPIC PIN COLLECTOR BARBIE

[barbie.com/collectors/00\\_preview/pshow/pshow\\_h/25644.asp](http://barbie.com/collectors/00_preview/pshow/pshow_h/25644.asp)

If there's any doubt about the Olympics' being completely commercialized, consider this red-hot tie-in, which is a doozy of a cultural artifact. From the caption: "Barbie dons blond hair (African-American doll has black hair) and a tan hat. She's a true 'Aussie.' Shrimp sold separately."

## WRESTLING

### ESSENTIAL SITE

**THEMAT.COM** [themat.com](http://themat.com)

Wrestling is old-school: just strength, skill, and brains. In fact, it's the oldest competitive sport. Acquire the taste here with full U.S. team coverage, audio interviews, action photos, history, community, and a store.

### HOME GROWN SITE

**ALEKSANDR KARELIN**

[geocities.com/southbeach/lights/6581/karelin.html](http://geocities.com/southbeach/lights/6581/karelin.html)

Good bio-site on perhaps the greatest amateur athlete ever, the Russian Greco-Roman wrestler Aleksandr Karelin. He's never lost an international match, thanks in large part to "the Karelin lift," in which he picks up his opponent and throws him over his head. Fascinating guy.

thanks to this site's "explanatory book," Olympics preview guide, day-by-day reports, photos, and forum (sample subject line: "I am judoman....!!!").

## PENTATHLON

### ESSENTIAL SITE

**NBCOLYMPICS.COM: MODERN PENTATHLON** [nbcolympics.com](http://nbcolympics.com>Select) (*Select "Modern Pentathlon" from pull-down menu*)

When Dolph Lundgren is the spokesman, you know it's obscure. See why the pentathlon is the oddest Olympic sport at this site, which supplements the basics with info on the U.S. team and e-mail updates if you should fancy them.

## HANDBALL

### ESSENTIAL SITE

**HANDBALL**

[members.xoom.com/sjiswartz/handball.htm](http://members.xoom.com/sjiswartz/handball.htm)

The site's tiny type aside, this breathless tribute to "the second most popular game in the world" is a good introduction to handball for an American audience. Europe will dominate in Sydney; follow the action and learn more at **ABC NEWS ONLINE: HANDBALL** [[abc.net.au/news/olympics/sports/handball.htm](http://abc.net.au/news/olympics/sports/handball.htm)].

## EQUESTRIAN

### ESSENTIAL SITE

**MR HORSE** [mrhorse.com](http://mrhorse.com)

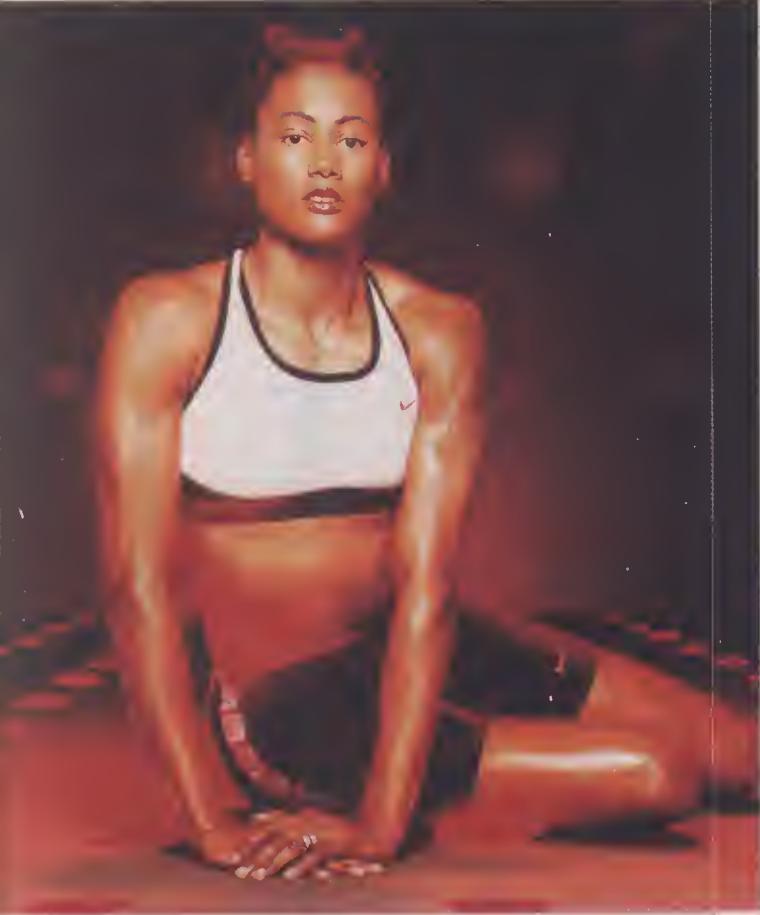
The man behind this excellent domain is an Italian horse fiend whose "world equestrian site" has a fine Olympics section, including an "interactive horse" with clickable horse parts. It's polyglot as well, with versions in all major European languages. Now that, Mr. Horse, is the Olympic spirit.



Z ZIFF DAVIS

[www.yil.com/olympics](http://www.yil.com/olympics)

YAHOO! INTERNET LIFE



**WEB JONES:** Marion Jones and the world's top runners linger in AOL chatroom Mysterious Speed Kills.

time appeared: 1:00:99. "He'd gone from 1:02 to 1:00 in one meet!" says the 26-year-old Stanford grad. "I felt threatened."

Just four years ago, Grote would have had to wait days for the Moses bombshell. He would have had to get a call from a coach, or wait for his weekly fax edition of the *Taper & Shave* newsletter, or read the monthly magazine *Swimming World*. Sure, world records on the track make the local papers and ESPN, but big results from smaller sports never got reported within 24 hours before the Net. Says Grote: "There's simply no other way."

## THE ATHLETE RING

The athletic community may be the tightest and most Web-dependent of all. Now there's a place where runners from all over North America get together for support and news. It's a place without intrusion from reporters or fans. It's a place that's always open. It's a place like the AOL chatroom Mysterious Speed Kills. No one uses real names here, but all the regulars know who's who. "If you took the top 50 track athletes, three-fourths have AOL accounts," says Boldon, who has Maurice Greene and Marion Jones on his buddy list. These sprinters don't have to wait for the opening ceremonies to band together and build friendships.

As soon as Massachusetts triathlete Karen Smyers was diagnosed with thyroid cancer in September 1998, she says, "I got on the Internet and started asking around." Someone told her about Canadian Olympic rower Emma Robinson, who also had the dis-

ease. Smyers found the **ROWING CANADA AVIRON** Web site, got Robinson's e-mail address, and contacted her. Robinson wrote back with encouraging news: She had received a diagnosis at about the same time as Smyers, had surgery in January, started radiation treatment in March, and broke a world record in June. "She has definitely been a big inspiration to me," says Smyers. Yet the e-pals have never met or even spoken on the phone.

## THE CENTER RING

While the Web has made immeasurable strides toward improving the public's Olympic experience, in some ways the Net has yet to stretch its legs. In February, the International Olympic Committee forbade the online broadcast of video from the 2000 games. The reason? When it comes to sports advertising, television and the Internet don't mix. "TV ad money is how the Olympic committees fund their programs," says Kevin Rew, who negotiated more than a third of the sponsorship deals for the Atlanta committee. "Those rights become less valuable if there are alternate ways of viewing."

Or do they? Let's say you're an ad exec at Home Depot. Would you rather have your company's name in front of a fan's face for 30 seconds or for an entire segment of coverage? "If I'm a U.S. sponsor, I want the Internet to win," says Rew. "I'd get a lot more bang for my buck that way."

NBC owns exclusive broadcasting rights through 2008, but it will show only 10 percent of the competition Down Under. The Internet could make every second available in real time, so an Internet deal could become far more lucrative for the IOC than a new TV contract. "Will live streaming video be available by 2004? I don't think so," says **SPORTS.COM** managing director Tom Jessiman. "But by 2008, the fur will fly."

## THE FUTURE RING

Nonetheless, the Net will dominate the Olympic scene long before 2008. Already, Michael Johnson fans can log on to **NBCOLYMPICS.COM** and see that the sprinter's heart ticks steadily at 185 beats per minute for the duration of a 400-meter race. In coming years, expect to get the speed of a figure skater and the strength of a boxer's jab. Then look to be able to fence virtually in a gold medal match or heave a digitized shot put.

It's hard to believe that the idea of an official Olympic site originated only five years ago. IBM and AT&T battled for its sponsorship and argued fiercely about whether the Internet fell under the heading of computers or telecommunications. Now, in 2000, fans following the games will get an unprecedented amount of customized content on both desktops and phones. "This Olympics will demonstrate what might be done in a non-Olympic context," says Rew. In other words, in just a few weeks, expect the way you watch sports to change dramatically. And if there's any doubt remaining about the Web's prowess and promise for 2008, consider that when the Olympic flame was lit in Barcelona in 1992—just eight years ago—the World Wide Web consisted of five pages.

**ERIC ADELSON** is a senior reporter for ESPN: The Magazine.

# *the e-mail chronicles*

{ Seven authors and one poet send  
in their astonishments and discontents on  
our most impassioned Internet pursuit }

## Re: TO DEAR SIR WITH LOVE

**O**ne doesn't wish to tempt fate, but the call from George W. Bush asking me to be his vice presidential running mate never came. True, my answering machine is balky, but I always get the calls asking for money for his campaign, so I guess they could have reached me if they had wanted to.

So, since I'm not Dubya's first choice for veep, I guess I'll now confess to something that would have kept me from being vice presidential timber anyway: I like dirty e-mails.

No, I do not mean e-mails advertising sites with nekkid girls or hot young studs. I don't really have much interest in looking at a tiny photo of a naked girl. I've been getting the Playboy Channel for 12 years now, so I know what women look like without any clothes on. Plus, I am extremely attached to my German shorthaired pointer, Brigitte, and I'd probably rather see nude photos of pointers than of human females.

But I love to get letters where women profess their love and tell me the sex-crazed things they want to do with me. Call me a big stupid nerd, but I like the phenomenon in which women who barely know me—or don't know me at all—send lengthy e-mails setting forth their plans.

Now, maybe it's because I spent so many years studying bond default rates, and years before that thinking about what the right price-to-earnings ratio of stocks should be. But when

I get an e-mail saying "...and then you'll be in your study reading a boring old book about Nixon, and I come in wearing just a thin wet T-shirt, and I sit on your lap and wriggle around," I like it a lot. It doesn't matter that I'll probably never see the woman. In fact, it's better—my wife wouldn't like it if I met her. But the letter gives plenty of cause for excitement and no one can blame me for a sin, because, after all, it's only "virtual" sex.

Not to mention that if I'm in the middle of writ-

From: BEN STEIN

ing a letter for a son's friend helping him to get into law school, and then I get an e-mail from a fan that says that not only has she got oral sex techniques that will drive me wild, but so does her sister, and they both want to meet me in a motel in rural Georgia, I feel as if my day has not been badly spent.

Mind you, I get only a few of these letters compared with those that merely ask for an autograph. I get about the same number of the sex allure ones as I do of the ones that call me anti-Semitic names. But—surprise, surprise—I like the ones better that talk about tying me to a bed and doing slurpy things to me than the ones that shout I'm a Jewboy and they're gonna get me. For some reason, they make me feel warmer and safer than the hate mail.

For generations, Americans have talked about unexpected money through the mail. The idea was that just out of the blue, something good came to

you in an envelope. Now, with e-mail, there's no envelope, but a stranger can still make me feel that my flabby old 55-year-old self is wanted. It's scary and ugly when I log on and there's hate mail. But by the exact same token, to feel that some woman (I hope they're from women) out there in faraway Colorado wants me has roughly the same thrill as when Kiki Gosdik, in 11th grade, would whisper that Bunni or Susie "liked" me.

We all want to feel wanted. And we all want strange women to do strange things to us in motel rooms....Oops, did I say that? I must have been dreaming that I was the president. Wow. I'd like to see his in-box. I guess I never will, though. I won't even get to see the vice president's e-mail.

---

**BEN STEIN**, host of *Comedy Central's Win Ben Stein's Money*, is a comic, professor, speechwriter, and actor.



## Re: THE GODS MUST USE E-MAIL

**i**n recently went to Israel with my wife and daughter. "Can I get you anything while I'm there?" I asked my mother before I left. "You can put a note in the wall," she said. "You know what to write."

I did indeed. My father had been sick, and it is a tradition among Jews that a prayer for healing, slipped into a crevice of the Western Wall, is a direct appeal to God. I recalled this exchange recently when I stumbled onto a service, sponsored by **VIRTUAL JERUSALEM**, that lets you send a prayer to the wall via the Internet. In other words, you can e-mail God.

There is, to be sure, a certain hokeyness to the offer. Does someone really print out our prayers and stuff them into cracks? Or does the venture imply a sort of cosmic computer to which God has access? But gimmicks aside, there is an ephemeral intensity to e-mail not unlike prayer. Faith is required for both. Both are fleeting messages born out of urgency and hope; I am never sure if either will arrive at its intended destination.

There is something slightly desperate about e-mail—the hasty wording, the bad spelling. Yet this sloppiness offers reason for optimism—it is proof, almost, that the medium is as close to telepathy as we are likely to get. This gives e-mail its metaphysical appeal. In *The Odyssey*, Homer writes of "winged words," especially when gods speak to people, or when people speak to gods, or when mortals are pleading. E-mail gives words wings.

This doesn't mean that I sent an e-mail to the West-

ern Wall. I find myself unable to use my computer to talk to God. Delivering my scribbled message by hand when I was actually in Jerusalem had an archaic element in keeping with my religious purpose. It's the nature of a pilgrimage that one really must go somewhere.

Nevertheless, the medium of e-mail is compatible with religious fantasy. In Hebrew, the word for *angel* and the word for *messenger* are the same. E-mail is a true messenger of thought—sometimes too reliably so, for I have dashed off and dispatched e-mails that I would like to have called back.

Although I would only have been satisfied carrying my handwritten message to the stone wall that is all that remains of Herod's Temple, it was with e-mail that I received updates on my father's health while I was away. It was e-mail that collapsed the space between my scattered family and my journey across the world.

There are angels, according to the mystics, that are born to fill a single purpose before dissolving into the ether. E-mail is like that. Of all the orders of communication, the thrones, powers, dominions of human expression, e-mail remains a lowly sort of communication. But there are hierarchies of angels too. E-mail may be one of those lesser angels that nevertheless contains a spark of creative power that more than justifies its brief life.

---

**JONATHAN ROSEN** is the author of the just-published *The Talmud and the Internet: A Journey Between Worlds*.

# Re: *The way we were*



**i**t took almost a hundred years for the telephone to be transformed from communications magic to a mechanical-voiced, telemarketer-ridden, keypad-menu, Muzak-spewing nightmare. When I first logged on to my ancient, pre-mouse computer with its flickering black-and-white screen, it also seemed enchanted. But it has taken less than 10 years for e-mail to degenerate from being the miracle that made the whole world an intimate club to being an annoying pain in the modem.

I can't help missing the olden, golden days of e-mail, back in the long-ago 1990s. After a heart-warming sequence of whirs and clicks, my poky pixels would slowly construct messages on the tiny, primitive screen. You could get an answer from almost anyone

—and a quick scroll through member lists

yielded a person's address. For advice about my *Time* magazine subscription, I e-mailed the magazine's editor, Walter Isaacson; for Internet tips I e-mailed James Gleick, who now writes about the Net for *The New York Times Magazine*. Those were the days when John Seabrook of *The New Yorker* wrote about getting an answer from Bill Gates in the time it took to feed his cat.

Staring at that grainy screen, I thought I could feel the world changing. Cyberspace seemed a lot like heaven. It didn't matter what anyone looked like, and most of my friends were there. Handsome men fell in love with me in cyberspace, women who had never been interested in me wanted to exchange messages, editors who had scorned my writing efforts suddenly had time to discuss the ins and outs of the Internet. My two brothers—one in Colorado and one in Westchester—e-mailed me every day, and we developed a string of jokes together. It felt like being a bright child in a happy family.

Like all pioneers, we envisioned a brave new world, a world without advertising and cant. We thought we were creating a grassroots system of communications that would be both free, and free. There were high-level arguments at any hour on

everything from user fees to John McPhee. There was a respected code of conduct; we didn't sell things. We didn't use block caps. There were no lame lawyer jokes, no dancing hamsters. In those days we believed that the Internet was about information, not about promotion. People who tried to advertise were flamed, harassed, and reprimanded by the sysops. Advertising was not allowed on the Internet. Doesn't that sound like a joke?

Yesterday, when I logged on, as I do about once a week, dutifully, perfunctorily, there were six solicitations in my mailbox, each ghoulishly tailored to my needs, and each in block caps. SUSAN, GET DOLLARS FOR COLLEGE! many of them have said in the week since my daughter graduated from high school. Others are lists of aphorisms and

jokes from friends who "just wanted to share them with me." I love

what my friends actually want to share; what happens when they indiscriminately press a forward button is harder to love. We're all so lonely out there in cyberspace, and so desperate to separate the diminishing wheat of real communication from the increasing chaff of advertising and hype, that the most successful virus to date came in a message slugged I Love You.

"Somewhere we have gotten hold of the idea that the more all-embracing we can make our communications networks, the closer we will be to that partaking that we long for deep down," writes Sven Birkerts in the Faustian-pact section of his jeremiad against the world of electronic communication, *The Gutenberg Elegies*. "The devil no longer moves about on cloven hoofs, reeking of brimstone. He is an affable, efficient fellow." But when we make a pact with the devil, aren't we supposed to get something wonderful? Have we sold our letter-writing, real-communication souls for a mess of mass mailings and bad puns?

I wish that sounded like a joke.

---

**SUSAN CHEEVER** is the author of the novel *Looking for Work* and of *Home Before Dark: A Biographical Memoir* of John Cheever by His Daughter.

From: GEORGE PLIMPTON

a few months ago the I Love You bug turned up on my screen. I don't have much of an e-mail correspondence since I prefer letter writing via the post and the telephone as a means of communication.

The I Love You message came from the woman who runs a distinguished literary foundation in Washington, a friend only in the sense that we exchange business letters from time to time. I have met her over the years in Washington at the galas for the foundation—a pleasant, middle-aged personage, comfortably settled into a marriage as far as I know, with children and so forth, with never a hint or glint of eye suggesting what the e-mail message implied.

Not only one message from her, but two!

when it comes to communicating at a distance it must be through this newfangled contraption. I have often thought that in a Garboesque frame of mind he wishes to be left alone, his life uncluttered by a salesman calling him from a brokerage firm ("How are you today?").

After all, one can delete an e-mail message without ever reading it, which for my friend is apparently more satisfactory than cutting off unwelcome calls by slamming a telephone receiver into its cradle.

About 10 minutes after I had sent the e-mail call for help, my phone rang. It was my friend!

"Hey!" I said. "Haven't heard your voice in years."

He came right to the point. "You really got an I Love You message?"

## { Re: EVERYBODY SAYS I LOVE YOU }

Fortunately, I had read something about the bug in the morning papers. The big question was not e-mailing back my Washington friend in an attempt to cool down her ardor but how to rid the I Love You from my in-box, where it could sit like a keg of explosives; one of my children (or perhaps my wife!) might (in a sense) detonate it to find out what it contained.

I have very little confidence in sending things to my machine's trash can, convinced that by error I will trash everything in my computer. So I e-mailed a friend of mine who is an expert in such matters. I explained that an I Love You bug had turned up in my computer and I didn't know how to get rid of it.

His is an interesting case. He has given up using the telephone. It is only possible to get in touch with him by e-mail. Even a message as prosaic as "meet me at Orsini's café at five," so easy to transmit by telephone, must be tapped out and sent him via e-mail.

I don't know why this is so. He is immensely cultivated, possesses a vast library on hunting and fishing, in conversation never at a loss for words; yet

"Absolutely," I said. "Didn't you?"

I could tell by the pause in his voice that he hadn't:

"You mean to tell me," I said smugly, "that after all these years on the Internet, eschewing [a word I use on pertinent occasions] the telephone, you didn't get bugged? Good Lord—you're not in the loop!"

I could tell by an indrawn breath that he had no reply. How galling it must have been for him to think that I, who have at the most one or two messages a week in my in-box, have had the pleasure of being bugged from someone in the Philippines.

My friend helped me out, of course, showing me how to get rid of the I Love You message in the trash can.

I see him on occasion. The last time I saw him, I told him, "If you're worried about not being the loop, maybe I can help you out. Give me a call."

---

GEORGE PLIMPTON, editor of *The Paris Review*, is the author of *Paper Lion* and *X Factor: A Quest for Excellence*, among other books, and is the editor of *Poets at Work: The Paris Review Interviews*.

# Re: Paean: E-mail

From: BILL BLY

What could be KEWLER than e-mail?  
It dominates distance discourse:  
long gone the notched stick, the knotted string,  
the stylus, the quill, the deckle-edged vellum,  
the signal fire, the flapping flag,  
the sparking wire of the dit-dit-dahs;  
e-mail is outpaced, for the nonce,  
only by the phone on the desk  
and the stick upside the head on the street.

Who saw e-mail coming?  
Its humble origin as mere caption  
for files shared on the rickety old Arpanet  
gave only the slightest hint of wonders to come:  
Here's the specs on the bug zapper we wired into  
the space-time continuum distorfer last night.  
Check the math before you fire it up  
and, um, be sure to wear a cup....

Most technology, we're told,  
Begins as toy or weapon;  
E-mail, as we know, can be both  
(whatever else it is or yet will be).  
What gizmo from FAO Schwarz could ever eat up  
so many hours of every day?  
What hobby, sport, or pastime—  
or, for that matter, job, career, or life mission  
(outside the convent, and not all of them...)  
could ever so utterly enthrall?

And your boss is *shakin'* about  
this weapon of mass communication at your fingertips;  
he's got the IT geeks, the FBI,  
CIA, NSA, MIF, and Microsoft all scrambling  
to keep up with your correspondence,  
but he'll never stanch the flow:  
e-mail, like water (or love, or blood)  
just goes around whatever's in the way.  
If he'd only learn to type,  
he could be partying right now!—  
with you and your friends, co-cubies,  
and yes, your customers and headhunters,  
gabbing about what's *really* going on,  
how things *really* work (and don't)  
thickening the cyberair with stupid jokes,  
smart jokes, weird trivia, wooden leg sermons,  
Top 10 lists, daffy definitions, and Darwin Awards,  
—but also perfuming the noosphere with a myriad  
rare blossoms of information.

Credits: 1) Bronwen & Claire's Really Huge Emoticon Collection! [[www.angelfire.com/hi/hahakiam/emoticon.html](http://www.angelfire.com/hi/hahakiam/emoticon.html)]  
2) A forward. Thanks to the creator, wherever you are.

You learn unexpected things:

Short takes long  
Easy is hard  
E-mail wears a hat, and sometimes shoes

Questions no one thought of before  
e-mail begin to haunt you:

If a bcc: is blind, how'd it find me?  
What is the sound of one hand typing?  
Um, what's the etymology of the word *um*?

You wonder about the evolutionary value  
of emoticons. These, for example:

B:-) wearing glasses on head  
d8= beaver wearing goggles and a hard hat  
:-[ vampire  
:-E bucktoothed vampire  
:-F bucktoothed vampire with one tooth missing<sup>1</sup>

But listen.

This is really important:  
this urgency to speak, to tell,  
to make, to give, to pass along;  
also to listen, to learn, to seek, to find—  
to have? to hold? no, these miss the point...  
it's more like poetry or music  
(only less gussied up):  
the folk tune whistled by the shoe-shine guy  
or the smart-ass crack that breaks up a fight.

Of course it's fugitive, the spelling's terrible,  
d styapo3s rq4mpoant & the apologies profuse: we gotta  
hurry—something's gaining on us & we think it might be  
FREEDOM!!!—'r else the boss's door just opened....

The Paean was sung and danced by ancient Greeks  
to hop themselves up before running into battle.  
Since e-mail, however eloquent and agile in its message,  
is in its medium yet silent and still, herewith this kludge,  
from the attendant spirit of e-mail, to inspire your charge  
into the battle to get where you belong:

Mr. Ascii does tai chi.<sup>2</sup>

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BILL BLY is a poet and the author of the hypertext novel  
We Descend and the forthcoming Wyrmes Mete.

# { Re: Mixed Messages }

From: ESTHER DYSON

**N**onusers always wonder if e-mail won't rob us of our humanity. But users knew that e-mail can convey emotions as rich as those of Shakespeare's poetry—and can also be misinterpreted as badly as the communications between Romeo and Juliet that led to their deaths.

My own in-box reveals my innermost state of mind and my outermost state of business. On bad weeks, it surges above 2,000 messages. But I refuse to have more than one address—that would just make it more complicated. In many ways, e-mail is merely one additional means of communication. Yet this medium has started to fall into patterns that already seem familiar.

E-mail makes life more complicated, less complicated, more personal, less personal—and lots of things in between. We never really know until after we've hit Send. Here are some of my favorite scenarios.

**Juan, Meet Alice** // For whatever reason, you think the two of them should get acquainted. Juan has money; Alice has a startup. Or Juan has a startup; Alice needs a job. Or Alice works at eBay; Juan has a business idea to propose. The annoying thing, of course, is that when you write to both of them, each answers only you. All right, already! Write to each other, and arrange the meeting between yourselves!

**Hey, Let's Have a Meeting!** // You write to eight people to suggest a meeting next Tuesday at 5:30 at Alice's office. (It's now the Wednesday before.) By Friday you get two answers: One suggests doing it at 4 P.M.; the other says he can't do it Tuesday but anytime Wednesday would be great! On Saturday, Fred offers to bring cookies. You send out a copy of the original message, adding plaintively: "URGENT—please let me know!" On Sunday, Juan replies with a long description of all his activities for the next week, cc'd to all, and a request to do the meeting in *his* office on Thursday morning. You settle for a phone meeting.

## Please Sign the (Oops!) Documents

**Documents** // Juan sends out an e-mail in a rush: He needs to get the signatures by tomorrow,

and so he has his secretary e-mail out the documents. In her haste, she forgets the subject line, and just sends an attachment. The next day, only one person has responded. It's me. I don't recognize the secretary's name, so I write: "Please tell me what's in here before I open it." The secretary follows up by phone. Olga is out of town and didn't take her PC; Fred is out of town and *did* take his PC, but he didn't think the documents looked urgent, and besides, he doesn't carry a printer with him. Alice has deleted the entire message because she didn't recognize the sender.

**Mail to Voice** // The question: I'm interviewing your former roommate for vice president of sales. Can you give me any insights?

The answer: You should definitely call me. I'd rather not do this by e-mail.

**Yes!** // Fred has one of those annoying e-mail programs that don't automatically include the text of the message being answered, so his e-mails are often out of context. It gets especially confusing when he's answering the P.S. of the original message. For example, the original message from Juan—titled "Opportunity!"—lists a set of issues and personalities. Fred answers four days later. By this time, the opportunity has cooled and the individuals have been forgotten. Fred's answer reads in its entirety: "I think the best thing would be for him to get in touch directly with Paul at HQ. Regards, Fred" Who? Where? Never mind!

**Re: Re: Re: Re: Re: Re: Re: Re: Re:** **LUNCH JUNE 5?** // On the other hand, Juan's and Alice's software retains the previous message, with as many >>> as necessary. This message, from Juan to Alice, has many embedded previous messages. It is dated August 4, and begins:

"Darling, usual place tonight?"

---

ESTHER DYSON is the chairman of EDventure Holdings, which publishes Release 1.0., and of ICANN, which governs the Internet's domain name system.

## Re: WHEN WE WERE WIZARDS

I received my first e-mail in '74. At the time, I didn't think it was a technological milestone—simply a way to communicate using basic technology that conjoins one thing to another. ¶ But 50,000 messages later, my first e-mail lives, stapled to the back cover of a programming handbook. ¶ It was December 31, 1973, and my friend Greg Flint and I were spending our New Year's Eve mucking with an already dated PDP-8 computer at the University at Buffalo. Toggle switches and miniature lamps sprout from its front panel, printed circuit boards grow from the backside. We're programming it through a rickety old Teletype, reading in programs through paper tape. ¶ Not that we had license to be working on this beast. As undergrads, we got the table scraps in the physics department. "Hell, nobody uses this stuff after hours," Greg mumbled, smoke curling up from his soldering iron. "We'll be keeping the electrons fresh for the eggheads." ¶ By slightly exaggerating his credentials ("Hello, I'm Doctor Flint"), Greg had persuaded a bank to lend us a portable terminal. We're talking whiz-bang technology for the times—it could print 30 uppercase letters a second onto slippery thermal paper. A modem was built in, so to speak: Just pick up a phone, dial in to a remote modem, listen for the beep, then pop the receiver into the rubber cups, and you were online...a shadow away from pure magic. ¶ Greg figured the world needed more connections, so he struck a blow for anarchy by snaking a wire down the hall and clipping into Professor Gayley's office phone. "He's a physicist," Greg told me. "Wouldn't know what a phone line does." ¶ By 4 A.M. Greg and I had built a 300-baud modem into the old computer and were set to begin a new era in remote computing. ¶ I biked home and dialed Professor Gayley's number. Sure enough, we heard that now-familiar whistle of our modem. I snuggled the handset into the terminal and—shazam!—my trusty PDP-8 greeted me with a prompt. ¶ For the next month, Greg and I shared terminal, computer, and pizza crusts. Pretty soon he'd liberated a Teletype for his house, and we'd leave messages for each other, posting them as files to be read. ¶ All went well until Groundhog Day, I dialed in to discover a new file in my listing: Readme. It was my first e-mail: *Dear Cliff and Greg, Your antics on the computer have tied up my telephone so I can no longer receive calls. How about using someone else's phone line? Professor Gayley.*

¶ CLIFFORD STOLL is the author of *Silicon Valley Snake Oil* and *The Cuckoo's Egg*.

**From: CLIFFORD STOLL**

## Re: BEING DR. RUTH

I used to begin my day a lot like you: I'd check my e-mail. But by 11 A.M., when you were working a late-

**From: JENNIFER ENO**

morning caffeine high, my head was buzzing with something else. A mere two hours into my job, I was dealing with 110 men wanting to know about their penis, 67 people striving for multiple orgasms, 42 who can't find the G-spot, 33 parents who suspect their child is a homosexual, 12 curious about the best way to rope a friend into a three-way, and a good dozen fantasies that I won't even get into. And I've got hundreds more to go.

For six months of my professional life I was the human interface between the country's preeminent sex counselor and her in-box. I answered Dr. Ruth's e-mail.

As Dr. Ruth's online answering machine, I was charged with downloading the emissions from the night before, forwarding many

to the doctor herself. The volume was astonishing. Clocking in the e-mails from Trinidad, Mexico, Singapore, and beyond, the usual subject lines poured forth:

Subject: RE: my penis  
Subject: my Penis  
Subject: Help with Orgasm  
Subject: MY BIG PENIS  
Subject: Is this normal?  
Subject: Mine goes to the left!  
Subject: My penis

Each day's messages brought everything from the naive ("Dr. Ruth, AM I PREGNANT?") to the clinically bizarre ("Muddy Sperm??") to the deep, like the woman who provided a psychosexual analysis of her fiancé after discovering that he had been e-mailing photos of his genitalia willy-nilly across the Net. I began to recognize the doctor's repeat visitors.

People could e-mail with confi-

dence that their "Muddy Sperm???" was no worse than anything else Dr. Ruth had heard over the years. Unlike her radio show, where the caller risked potential embarrassment, e-mail delivered a sweet anonymity. No shirt, no shoes, no real-time verbal communication required. Dr. Ruth was there 24/7, not bound by office hours, locations, and fees. Many of the e-mails ended with "thanks for listening," as if the simple act of articulating the problem in an e-mail provided a certain catharsis. I like to think it did.

We've all heard the reports of the so-called socially distancing effects of spending time online: anxiety, loneliness, depression. But for our community, this space allowed access to a tool with which people could unload their problems and—we hoped—begin a sexual healing. ¶

JENNIFER ENO is director of community content for Chickclick.

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# VOODOO

October 28

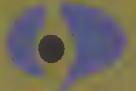
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## Dell™ has won PC World Reader's Survey for Best Home PC Reliability and Service 6 years in a row.

Any computer company can offer you service and support. At Dell,<sup>TM</sup> we're offering you a living, breathing, certified technician who will actually come to your house (and into your kitchen if need be). If you have a problem with your system, give us a call 24x7 for a tech to troubleshoot with you over the phone. If hardware support is needed, a repair technician can be sent to your home. It's called Next-Business-Day At-Home Service<sup>4</sup> and it's available with every Dell Dimension<sup>TM</sup> desktop. Of course, chances are you'll never need someone to drop by. But if you ever do, just put on a fresh pot of coffee. Dell4me<sup>™</sup> is all about helping you get the most out of your PC. A certified technician is just one of the ways we're making it happen.

## DELL<sup>™</sup> DESKTOPS:

### DELL<sup>™</sup> DIMENSION<sup>™</sup> L Series

#### Affordable Desktop Solution

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 667MHz
- 64MB SDRAM ■ 7.5GB<sup>5</sup> Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 15" (13.8" vis) E550 Monitor
- Intel® 3D<sup>®</sup> AGP Graphics
- 48X Max CD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster 64V PCI LC Sound Card
- PC Speakers
- V.90 56K Capable<sup>6</sup> PCI DataFax Modem for Windows<sup>®</sup>
- MS<sup>®</sup> Works Suite 2000 ■ MS<sup>®</sup> Windows<sup>®</sup> 98, SE Contact us about MS<sup>®</sup> Windows<sup>®</sup> Me
- 3-Yr Limited Warranty<sup>7</sup> ■ 1-Yr At-Home Service<sup>4</sup>

**\$899**  E-VALUE CODE  
89108-500808

As low as \$25/Mo., for 48 Mos.<sup>17</sup>

### DELL<sup>™</sup> DIMENSION<sup>™</sup> 4100 Series

#### Advanced Performance, Smart Value

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 866MHz
- 128MB SDRAM at 133MHz
- 10GB<sup>5</sup> Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 17" (16.0" vis, .28dp) E770 Monitor
- 32MB NVIDIA TNT2 M64 4X AGP Graphics
- 48X Max CD-ROM Drive
- SB Live! Value Digital
- harman/kardon Speakers
- V.90 56K Capable<sup>6</sup> PCI Telephony Modem for Windows<sup>®</sup>
- MS<sup>®</sup> Works Suite 2000 ■ MS<sup>®</sup> Windows<sup>®</sup> 98, SE Contact us about MS<sup>®</sup> Windows<sup>®</sup> Me
- 3-Yr Limited Warranty<sup>7</sup> ■ 1-Yr At-Home Service<sup>4</sup>

**\$1499**  E-VALUE CODE  
89108-500814c

As low as \$41/Mo., for 48 Mos.<sup>17</sup>

### DELL<sup>™</sup> DIMENSION<sup>™</sup> XPS B Series

#### Cutting Edge Technology

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- 128MB RDRAM ■ 30GB<sup>5</sup> Ultra ATA Hard Drive
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- NEW 32MB DDR NVIDIA GeForce2 GTS 4X AGP Graphics
- 12X Max DVD-ROM Drive
- SB Live! Value Digital
- Altec Lansing<sup>®</sup> ACS-340<sup>™</sup> Speakers with Subwoofer
- 3Com<sup>®</sup> V.90 56K Capable<sup>6</sup> PCI Telephony Modem
- MS<sup>®</sup> Works Suite 2000 ■ MS<sup>®</sup> Windows<sup>®</sup> 98, SE Contact us about MS<sup>®</sup> Windows<sup>®</sup> Me
- 3-Yr Limited Warranty<sup>7</sup> ■ 1-Yr At-Home Service<sup>4</sup>

**\$2599**  E-VALUE CODE  
89108-500825s

As low as \$71/Mo., for 48 Mos.<sup>17</sup>

**DELL4me.com**

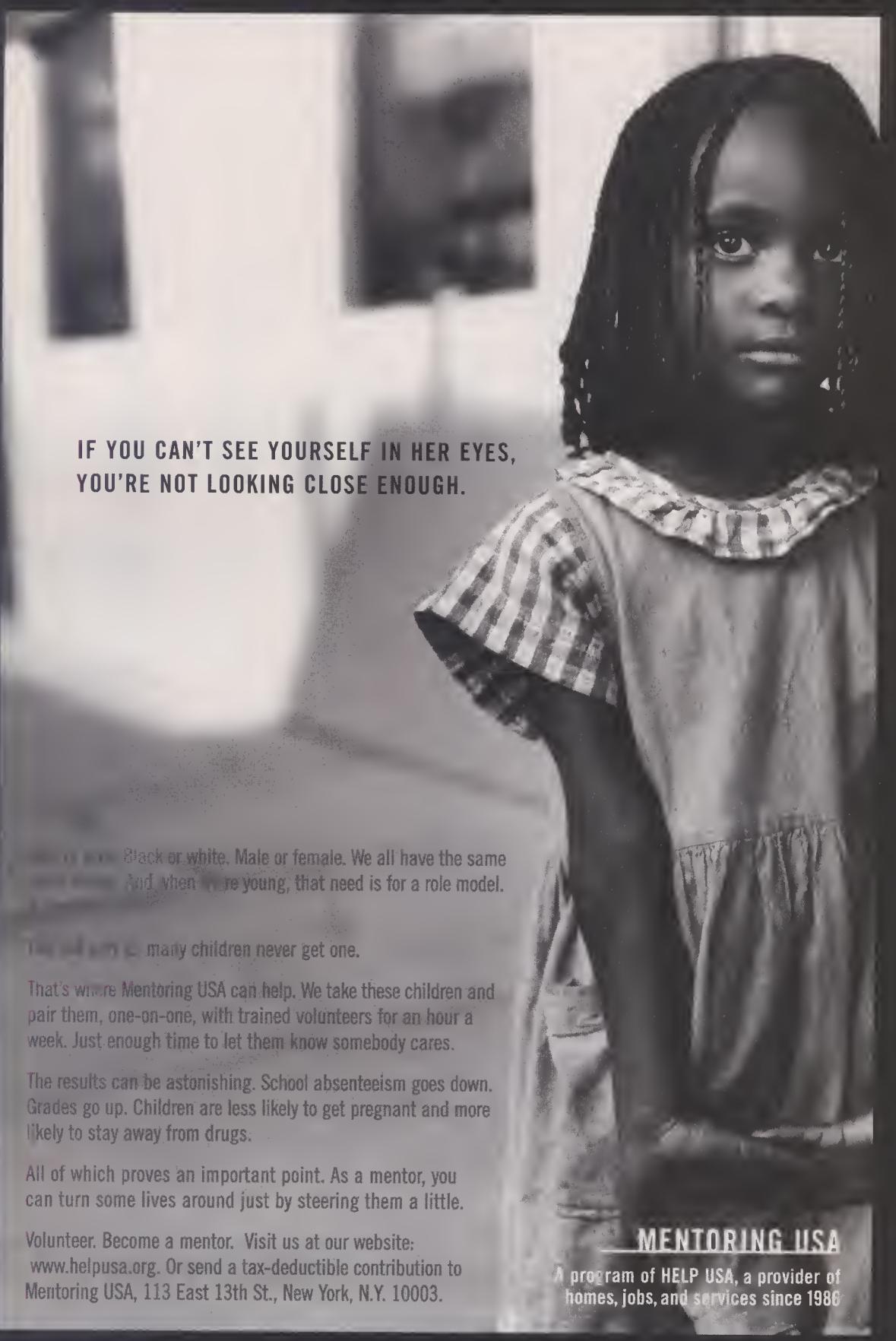
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**IF YOU CAN'T SEE YOURSELF IN HER EYES,  
YOU'RE NOT LOOKING CLOSE ENOUGH.**

Black or white. Male or female. We all have the same need when we're young, that need is for a role model.

Today, many children never get one.

That's where Mentoring USA can help. We take these children and pair them, one-on-one, with trained volunteers for an hour a week. Just enough time to let them know somebody cares.

The results can be astonishing. School absenteeism goes down. Grades go up. Children are less likely to get pregnant and more likely to stay away from drugs.

All of which proves an important point. As a mentor, you can turn some lives around just by steering them a little.

Volunteer. Become a mentor. Visit us at our website: [www.helpusa.org](http://www.helpusa.org). Or send a tax-deductible contribution to Mentoring USA, 113 East 13th St., New York, N.Y. 10003.

**MENTORING USA**

A program of HELP USA, a provider of homes, jobs, and services since 1986

# :// webGuide

WHERE TO, HOW TO, BEST OF: OUR MONTHLY GUIDE TO LIFE ON THE WEB EDITED BY CREE McCREE



## SCHOOL DAYS

New shoes, freshly sharpened pencils, and the latest upgrades for the laptop you tote to class. It's that time of year again, and whether you're outfitting your kid for third grade or heading off to campus yourself, you probably have a long list of things to buy. Start checking 'em off at the Net's top spots for scoring student essentials. From clothes to computers to textbooks, we've got it covered on PAGE 154.

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# New, Notable & Fun

WHAT'S HOT—AND WHAT'S COOL—ON THE WEB THIS MONTH

BY LISA KO

## RELAUNCH

**DISNEY.COM** A stunning makeover metamorphoses the domain into a virtual theme park in time for Disneyland's 45th anniversary. Hop the monorail and tour the "worlds" of the Magic Kingdom, bone up on Disney history, book a trip to the resort, or hang with luminaries such as Donald Duck. [disney.com]

**BLOOMBERG.COM: QUICK QUOTE** Because every second counts in a rapidly fluctuating market, the financial giant now offers investment profiles at the click of a mouse. Add a button to your browser, and when you come across a company's ticker symbol while surfing, highlight it to receive an instant stock quote. [www.bloomberg.com/quickquote]

**BHG.COM: RECIPE CENTER** The domestic hub moves out of the garden and into the kitchen with its online recipe box. Search thousands of tested recipes by ingredients, ethnic cuisine, or even the appliance used, then save your favorites to create menus and shopping lists. [recipe.bhg.com]

## POLITICS

**BLUE EAR** "No matter how technology changes...the real challenge is still to understand the world and to understand yourself," writes Steve Lanier, the publisher of this global political zine. The refreshingly smart journalism here is well worth your reading time. [blueear.com]

**POLICAST.COM** The first all-politics radio station on the Web touts original programming and scheduled commentary on local, state, and national politics. Hear campaign updates and the latest headlines at the top and bottom of every hour. Unlike offline talk radio, there are no pesky traffic reports. [policast.com]

## SHOPPING

**THE LEFT HAND.COM** It's tough being a lefty in a right-handed world, but this site makes it easier for southpaws. Purchase hard-to-find items, such as left-handed computer keyboards, baseball gloves, tape measures, and writing implements that prevent inky pinky syndrome. [thellefthand.com]

**HOMETOWNFAN.COM** Out-of-state college students, traveling salespeople, and other displaced sports fans can root for the home team no matter how far they roam. T-shirts, hats, and other official

## PORTAL PATROL

What does a portal sound like? Now you can listen to AltaVista while you browse. **ALTAVISTA RADIO** [radio.altavista.com] broadcasts more than 150 channels and 180,000 songs (and expanding) in an eclectic range of musical genres, from Dead Guy Rock to Indian Classical.

This one is for the kids: **YAHOO!** [yahoo.com] has tapped educational publisher **SCHOLASTIC** [scholastic.com] to produce content for **YAHOO!LIGANS!** [yahooligans.com], the portal's site for children. Dubbed a "newswire for kids," it will feature age-appropriate articles and interactive learning.

As part of its "AOL Anywhere" campaign, **AMERICA ONLINE** [aol.com] is providing Net services for users of **SPRINT PCS** [sprintpcs.com] mobile devices. Wireless Web surfers can access AOL e-mail, weather, news, and stock reports, in addition to information from AOL-owned sites, including **DIGITAL CITY** [digitalcity.com] and **MOVIEFONE** [moviefone.com].

merchandise from all the major sports are available here. Just don't make the mistake of wearing your new Atlanta Braves cap to Shea Stadium. [hometownfan.com]

## CAMPUS BEAT

**EDUCAID** The Web is swarming with companies proffering loans

## SPOTLIGHT



AN EXCITING PLACE JUST FOR DEAF & HARD OF HEARING KIDS

### CHATROOM

Please wait until the log-in screen appears. This should take less than one minute. Have fun chatting!

For visitors 17 years of age and younger, please ask your parents for permission to use this chatroom.

This chatroom is reserved

Message from  
Matthew S. Moore,  
President of DEAF.com

Welcome to Deafkids.com! This site has been designed for young Deaf and hard-of-hearing people, age 17 and under. It belongs to all Deaf and HH kids around the world. The purpose is to give Deaf/HH kids a place to



## Sound Off

**P**ERHAPS NO ONE HAS BENEFITED MORE FROM THE NET THAN the deaf community. E-mail and chat boards, which are flourishing at **DEAFCHAT.COM** and **DEAFNOTES.COM**, enable the 28 million hearing-impaired Americans to communicate easily with one another and also help connect deaf surfers with their hearing counterparts. Portals such as **DEAF MILLENNIUM NETWORK** [deafmillennium.net] and **DEAF WORLD WEB** [dww.org] post daily news and links to subjects ranging from student scholarships to the controversial cochlear implant. Smaller niche networks are up and running at **DEAF QUEER RESOURCE CENTER** [deafqueer.org] and **DEAFKIDS.COM**. Want to learn more? Visit **THE DEAF RESOURCE LIBRARY** [deaflibrary.org], or study American Sign Language at **HANDSPEAK** [handspeak.com].

**HEARING AIDS:** Deaf communities are thriving on the Net.

## MISSING LINK?

SITES WE SUGGEST YOU SAMPLE TOGETHER



## When Hip-Hop and Noise Pop Collide

**G**UITAR GODS AND HIP-HOP NOTABLES MIGHT seem to be strange bedfellows. But their creative collaboration—most popularly exemplified by the 1986 video pairing of Aerosmith and Run-D.M.C. for “Walk This Way”—makes sense if you consider the outsider status of both genres on today’s ‘N Sync-dominated airwaves. Vocal Napster opponents Metallica and Dr. Dre have yet to record a duet, but you never know; more unlikely couplings have occurred.

Indie-rock dinosaurs **SONIC YOUTH** [syonline.tripod.com], for instance, not only tapped

Chuck D. for a cameo on 1990’s “Kool Thing” but also teamed up in 1993 with **CYPRESS HILL** [cypressonline.com] to record “I Love You Mary Jane” for the *Judgment Night* sound track. The album also featured shotgun-wedding unions such as Teenage Fanclub and De La Soul. Although SY’s brand of noise pop does sound worlds away from the work of the blunt-tokin’ rappers—whose latest album delves further into the rap-rock hybrid—the acts did headline together at Lollapalooza in 1995. But don’t hold your breath waiting for the reunion tour.

**STREET CRED:** Cypress Hill (left) and Sonic Youth gave each other props.

to hard-up students and their families, and one of the nation's top educational lending institutions has streamlined it all into easy-to-digest resources. Sign up to receive monthly checklists for the financial-aid application process and to get the rundown on how loans work—and how to land one. [[www.eduaid.com](http://www.eduaid.com)]

**EGRAD2000.COM** Recent college grads who are panicking at the prospect of the first September when back-to-school no longer applies to them will appreciate the articles on moving out and moving on. Features include career advice, networking tools to connect with fellow alumni, and tips on renting that first apartment and applying to grad school. [[egrad2000.com](http://egrad2000.com)]

## TRAVEL

**IEXPLORE** Expert guides spotlight out-of-the-way destinations for intrepid globe-trotters, detailing not only the hot spots but also travel advisories, vaccinations needed, and historical background. Use the Trip Search to find your ideal vacation, whether it's horseback riding your way through Mongolia or eating your way through Italy. [[iexplore.com](http://iexplore.com)]

**AVANTGO: FODORS.COM** Tech-smart travelers now have access to a top travel publisher from their wireless Net phones and PDAs, letting them snag up-to-date listings and reviews for restaurants and hotels nationwide. [[avantgo.com/channels/detail.html?cha\\_id=1642&cat\\_id=125](http://avantgo.com/channels/detail.html?cha_id=1642&cat_id=125)]

## MUSIC GROOVES

**CHANNELFLY.COM** London's Barfly Club serves up this guide to the best alternative acts around today from the U.K. Read interviews and tour schedules, download MP3s, and catch Webcasts of bands such as Mogwai and Radiohead. [[channelfly.com](http://channelfly.com)]

**TWANGZINE** Die-hard fans of American roots music deliver articles and reviews celebrating the best in bluegrass and honky-tonk, from legends like Hank Williams to local bands like the Drive-By Truckers. If you think country is all about Garth Brooks (whom the edi-

tors dub a “punkinhead”), listen to the Twangcast and free your mind. [[twangzine.com](http://twangzine.com)]

**RADIO AFGHANISTAN** The Taliban regime has banned all forms of music in Afghanistan, but members of the country's diaspora are working hard to keep the songs alive online. Learn about Afghan music history, check out the contemporary scene, and make requests and dedications for your favorite songs in the Dari and Pashto languages. [[radioafghanistan.com](http://radioafghanistan.com)]

## SEARCH ENGINES

**DITTO** This unique engine crawls the Web for images, rather than text, then connects you to the location of the picture you desire. Can't find it? Ask the Ditto Detective to do the sleuthing and e-mail you the results. [[ditto.com](http://ditto.com)]

**BUSINESS.COM** The domain name fetched a record-breaking \$7.5 million last year. So was it worth it? Looks good so far—a directory and a search engine that together index nearly 200 million business-related pages, plus a digest that wraps up the top business stories of the day. [[business.com](http://business.com)]

**XREFER** Imagine the ultimate card catalog, Web-style. This is it: a search device that trolling reference materials on the Net—encyclopedias, dictionaries, books of quotations, and thesauri—and then cross-references your returns. [[xrefer.com](http://xrefer.com)]



## TREND SPOTTING

BY BILGE EBIRI



# Desktop Movie Magic

Two directors score with a live-action short

IT SEEMS AS IF WE KEEP HEARING ABOUT HOW one day computers will allow filmmakers to make movies on their desktops. But aside from animators, it is difficult to find anybody who has actually fulfilled this potential. Well, meet Bruce Branit and Jeremy Hunt, two visual-effects artists whose three-minute live-action short, *405*, comes about as close as possible. According to their site, **405: THE MOVIE** [[405themovie.com](http://405themovie.com)], they pulled it off using two actors, "consumer-level computers, off-the-shelf software, and [the team's] imaginative talents."

Besides offering free downloads of the finished product through a link to **IFILM** [[ifilm.com](http://ifilm.com)], the site provides a primer on digital effects the moviemakers used, such as visual compositing and wireframes. The film itself is an action comedy about what happens when one young motorist, a massive jet airplane, and a poky octogenarian driver converge on an L.A. freeway. Although the directorial duo had to actu-

ally step out of their house to shoot an actor inside a car, most of *405* was created on computers—including the freeway, the airplane, and the automobile exteriors. In fact, the woman playing the little old lady didn't even know how to drive.

**SPORTS DESK:** Ever wonder how the cast of *Survivor* might fare in a yacht race around the world? The **BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE** [[www.btchallenge.com](http://www.btchallenge.com)], which casts off on September 10, may provide a clue. Twelve teams of amateur sailors (plus one trained skipper per sloop) will vie to become the first crew to circle the globe in a nine-month, 30,000-mile competition. The contenders will contribute stories to the official site and keep in touch with the rest of the world via e-mail updates. Did we mention they'll be sailing against prevailing winds?

**QUICK CLICK:** The domain name **TELEVISION.COM** is finally getting put to good use. Launched on August 16, the site lets you view favorite commercials and clips of TV shows, both past and current.

**ABOVE:** Computer-created action from *405*.  
**RIGHT:** Worship *Charlie's Angels* on the Web.

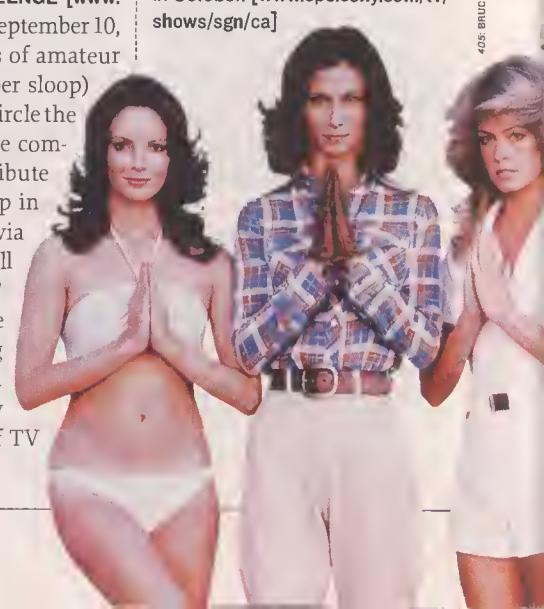
## TELEVISION

### Classic Tube

**ALIVE ON CABLE!** Nick at Nite/TV Land; **SciFi.com** Whatever decade you grew up in, the TV shows of the time live forever in your memory. Many gems still air on cable, with companion Web sites ready to deliver you back to a candy-coated past. Nick at Nite and TV Land share one retro site, which provides bios, episode guides, games, and sound and video clips for the nearly 40 classics they broadcast, from *The A-Team* to *The Wonder Years*. Protogeeks weaned on the original *Star Trek* and *The Twilight Zone* will rediscover old thrills and chills at the Sci Fi Channel site. [[nick-at-nite.com](http://nick-at-nite.com); [scifi.com](http://scifi.com)]

**TIMELESS T&A** *Charlie's Angels* Before there was *Baywatch* or Pamela Anderson's *V.I.P.*, there was *Charlie's Angels*—proof positive that big hair, big guns, and butt-loads of jiggle make for campy entertainment. That truth is not lost on the producers of the upcoming *Charlie's Angels* flick (at press time, due to open November 3). For the lowdown on the original late-1970s series starring Farrah Fawcett, Kate Jackson, and Jaclyn Smith, boogie over to Screen Gems Network's *babelicious* site, where you can "Ask Charlie" burning questions such as, "Did Farrah use a curling iron?" Watch for original *Charlie's Angels* episodes airing on TV Land in October. [[www.spe.sony.com/tv/shows/sgn/ca](http://www.spe.sony.com/tv/shows/sgn/ca)]

405: BRUCE BRANIT AND JEREMY HUNT. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED: ANGELS: FOTO FANTASIES; ANGELS: CHIP SIMONS/F+G





**ON A ROLL:** Connect with other players in fantasy games.

**POP SOUP TVparty** Every decade expresses its kooky collective unconsciousness on the tube, affectionately celebrated at [Billy Ingram's TVparty](#). Focusing mainly on the '60s, '70s, and '80s, Ingram provides a hilarious glimpse into the American pop psyche. Be sure to visit [Mistakes, Flops & Blunders](#), which features some of TV's most embarrassing moments. [[tvparty.com](#)]

#### STREAMING CLASSICS

**Like Television: The Classic TV Channel** Streaming-media provider [LikeTelevision](#) serves up episodes and clips from 50-plus golden oldies. Find out what made your parents tick by watching *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, *Highway Patrol*, *Dragnet*, and other shows now considered cult classics. Requires a current RealPlayer. [[liketelevision.com/classic/index.shtml](#)]

#### TV GUIDE About: Classic TV

Like any good About guide, Debi Jenkins is an expert miner of links. See what she's gathered on some 80 classic shows, from fan pages to theme tunes and free stuff. Your childhood fave might well be among them. [[classictv.about.com](#)]

—HEIDI LAFLECHE

#### MUSIC

## World Music

#### THE SOURCE RootsWorld

Known for its engaging and well-informed writing, this remains the site of record for all music based in, or derived from, ethnic traditions. Sweeping varied features, reviews,

and audio files fill the print magazine's online version, which is generously linked and capacious archivally. The fare in a recent What's New section ranged from surveys of native Central American music to early 20th-century vinyl from India. [[www.rootsworld.com](#)]

#### BOSSA NOVA AND BEYOND The Brazilian Sound

Americans went crazy for Brazil's suave bossa nova just before Beatlemania hit. Later, the country's quirky *tropicalismo* transfixed hipsters from David Byrne to Cibo Matto. More recently, such artists as kamikaze weirdo Tom Zé and rags-to-riches diva Virginia Rodrigues have been among the biggest crossover draws. The site may be sparsely designed, but it's unsurpassed as a clearinghouse for exploring this fertile sonic soil. Best yet, the Music Store sells hundreds of hard-to-find albums, available at excellent discounts through links to Amazon. [[thebraziliansound.com](#)]

**LATIN POP NOW... LaMusica.com** This fan-friendly site puts you at ground zero for the Latin pop boom, tracking the whereabouts and plans of Marc Anthony, Enrique Iglesias, and all the genre's

current stars. It also provides a handy menu of links to Latin radio stations from L.A. to Puerto Rico, along with audio archives featuring the "best of" La Musica. Although commercial, the site offers a solid sampling from a parallel mainstream that still bubbles largely underground. [[lamusica.com](#)]

#### ...AND THEN Tejano Home

**Page Tejano** is the Tex-Mex music pioneered by Don Santiago Jimenez (father of Los Super Seven's Flaco) and taken to the Top 10 by Selena decades later. Click here for a window onto the border region where American pop's Anglo-Latin future touched down early. You'll also find absorbing and info-rich columns and news. [[ondanet.com/tejano/tejano.html](#)] —ADAM McGOVERN

#### GAMES

## Role-Playing Games

#### MEDIEVAL FANTASY

**GemStone III** Imagine a world where wizards cast spells and elves venture on quests. That's Elanthia, the magical kingdom you'll find at Simutronics' GemStone III, a popular multiplayer game. For \$10 a

month after a 30-day free trial, you can create a character with the profession, skills, and physical characteristics you choose. Interact with fellow adventurers while you search for hidden treasure in this virtual scavenger hunt. [[gemstone3.com](#)]

#### MODERN SLEUTH Modus Operandi

Also produced by Simutronics, this challenging detective game is set on the imaginary Caribbean island of Morada. Once you've created your character, you can begin solving crimes. The pricing: like Gemstone III's. [[play.net/simunet\\_public/mohome.asp](#)]

#### FREE PLAY Mud Listings by Category

Time flies when you're having fun. So if you get hooked on Simutronics, you may end up spending a lot of money. Take a break and play a free multiplayer game. In the category listings, click on Roleplaying Muds and you'll find hundreds of links. [[mudconnect.com/mud\\_category.html](#)]

#### COMMUNITY HUB WebRPG

The site connects role-playing gamers to hundreds of far-flung fantasy realms. Search for new games or submit your own creation. [[webrpg.com](#)] —VIVIAN ROSE

#### GUEST GUIDE

## 'Happy Hooker' Xaviera Hollander

**H**er autobiographical book *The Happy Hooker* made

Xaviera Hollander famous. Today, in addition to being a popular writer on sexuality, the former madam is a web-mistress. At [XAVIERA HOLLANDER](#) [www.xaviera.com], fans can read about her new book, *Child No More* (which explores her life before hooking), subscribe to her free e-zine, XieZine, and submit questions for her monthly advice column in *Penthouse*. Here, she advises

users to visit her favorite bookmarks.

#### ARTS & LETTERS DAILY

It not only reprints current articles, book reviews, and opinion columns from the world's intelligent English-speaking press but also links to newspapers and news services, magazines, e-zines, columnists, search engines, and online reference works. [[cybereditions.com/aldaily](#)]

**EPICURIOUS** One of my cooks turned me on to

this high-quality site from Condé Nast. It's both big and useful, with lots of recipes and cooking tips. [[epicurious.com](#)]

#### ZEN From the Kōdaiji

Temple in Kyoto, Japan. Take your time for this peaceful and mesmerizing site, and don't forget to switch on your speakers. One of my most relaxing choices. [[www.do-not-zzz.com](#)]

**ATOMFILMS: USC CINEMA YEARBOOK** One of AtomFilms' spot-



light channels. Those wunderkinder from the USC film school are wise beyond their years, and their outstanding screen dramas prove it. [[atomfilms.com](#)]

MONEY MATTERS BY DEAN FOUST



## Mutual Attraction

New, do-it-yourself funds let you pick your own stocks at bargain rates

MUTUAL FUNDS WERE SUPPOSED TO SIMPLIFY investing, right? Hah! Critics argue that many funds charge hefty hidden fees, fail to beat market averages, and stick investors with big tax bills at inopportune times. Sure, you could create your own de facto fund, but using a discount broker to assemble a basic portfolio of 30 stocks can cost \$600 or more.

Now investors have an alternative. A new breed of sites lets you build your own mutual fund on the cheap, including **BUYANDHOLD.COM**, **FOLIOFN** [[foliofn.com](http://foliofn.com)], and—come fall—**EINVESTING** [[www.einvesting.com](http://einvesting.com)].

The cheapest of the lot is BuyAndHold, which lets you fill your shopping cart with your pick of 1,700 stocks for \$3 per trade; the minimum investment is a mere \$20. For those who would like a wider universe, Foliofn houses 2,500 of the largest and most active stocks. Investors can create three customized funds containing as many as 50 stocks each—all for a flat fee of \$295 a year, or less than the average fee for a \$25,000 mutual fund portfolio. If choosing your own stocks seems daunting, Foliofn also offers

almost 75 preassembled baskets of stocks, grouped by region (such as Asia), economic sector (biotechnology), and myriad other themes, such as companies with strong environmental or labor records.

Perhaps the most attractive feature of these funds is that investors can decide exactly when they want to buy and sell the stocks in their portfolio. This helps avoid those pesky end-of-year bills from mutual funds, which by law must pass on trading profits and losses each year.

Still, the new services offered on these sites aren't for everyone. The strict trading rules that most impose won't appeal to hyperactive day traders. Foliofn, for example, executes trades only twice a day. And some experts contend that the do-it-yourself approach defeats the original purpose of fund investing. "It sounds like a good deal for active investors who want to save on commissions and who are willing to do their own research," says Marla Brill, founder of **BRILL.COM: BRILL'S MUTUAL FUNDS INTERACTIVE** [[brill.com](http://brill.com)]. "But the whole reason a lot of investors buy a mutual fund is to have a professional do all this for them."

SHOPPING

## Back to School

**KID STYLE** **Bluefly** With sites like this around, outfitting Junior for school need not be an expensive ordeal. The popular online outlet offers branded apparel—from Little Me to Diesel and Calvin Klein—for kids and teens (as well as Mom and Dad) at discounts as deep as 80 percent. Got picky offspring? No need to worry; there's a handy 90-day money-back guarantee. [[bluefly.com](http://bluefly.com)]

**LEARNING HELPERS**

**SmarterKids.com** Whether you're homeschooling your children or simply looking to supplement their classroom education, you'll find a wide range of books, software, toys, and games to stimulate little brains at SmarterKids. Binary Arts, Lamaze, University Games, and Scientific Explorer are just a few of the name brands available. Product descriptions include teacher reviews and ratings, based on criteria such as targeted skills, ease of use, and, last but not least, fun. [[smarterkids.com](http://smarterkids.com)]

**COLLEGE-BOUND** **TheDormStore.com** If your belongings, like those of most college students, amount to little more than a laptop and a case of ramen noodles, don't miss TheDormStore.com. It offers all the furnishings you

need to outfit your digs in style, from futons to



ILLUSTRATION: GARY TAXALI



floor lamps. We especially like the selection of inflatable furniture, including cool, colorful blowup pillows, couches, and lounge chairs. You're on a student's budget, you say? Simply create a customized wish list and send it to your parents. They'll love that shipping is free. [thedormstore.com]

### READING LIST Varsity-Books.com; BigWords.com

Tired of waiting in line at your campus bookstore? Shop for that entomology guide at VarsityBooks.com, where you'll find discounts on tomes in all the major academic fields. Searchable by professor and course, the site also offers the chance to apply for scholarships. One thing you won't find at VarsityBooks is a buyback program. To hock your used books, turn to BigWords.com, which stocks a huge selection of new and used texts. It also sells music, clothes, shoes, and school supplies. [varsitybooks.com]; [bigwords.com]

### DESKTOP DISCOUNTS

Edu.com This site delivers student discounts on all the high-tech goods you'll need to make the grade, from computers and peripherals to educational software. Buyers' guides are on tap, along with a glossary illuminating elusive technical terms, such as *analog modem* and *XML*. When you're done shopping for the serious stuff, write a product review or refer a friend to the site to earn eduPoints, which are redeemable for CDs, electronics, movie tickets, and more. [edu.com] —ALEXIS ADAMS

## Fitness Gear

### PERSONAL TRAINER

BodyTrends.com From treadmills to skin-fold calipers to yoga mats,

here you'll find a vast array of doodads to tone, pump, stretch, and monitor your every muscle. Head for Ask an Expert and the pros will help you spend your money on just the right item to tighten those abs. You'll also find informative articles on nutrition and fitness, such as how to use that \$139 Polar heart-rate monitor you've just bought. Brightly colored Neoprene-covered dumbbells are yours for a dollar a pound, and the Eggsercizer, a little egg-shaped hand-therapy tool, is a mere \$8. When you finally get serious, your very own health club station, the Marcy Mach I Personal Trainer, will set you back \$579. [bodytrends.com]

**DISCOUNT GYM** Shop-Sports.com Although you won't find tips on how to exercise at this "sports superstore," the price is right for products. For example, the Abdominal Torso Track, which supposedly works your entire tummy area with "one simple movement," sells for \$249 at BodyTrends; here, it's a piddling \$99. Along with all the reasonably priced gym equipment, the site sells discounted exercise apparel and athletic shoes, fitness videos, and even classic sports films (*Jerry Maguire*, *The Natural*). Click on Balls Only to purchase a Joe DiMaggio-signed baseball for \$400. [shopsports.com]

**GREAT DEALS** The Sports Authority With its "150% lowest online price guarantee," the Sports Authority is a sure bet for fitness bargains: All orders are shipped for the small sum of \$5—which is an amazing deal if, for example, you're investing in the heavy-duty Fitness Quest Total Gym 2000 for a cool \$749. We especially appreciate the LiveRep service, which lets you chat in real time via a Java applet and pose your questions to real human beings who'll respond in a jiffy. [thesportsauthority.com]

### WORTH CHECKING

Sport Chalet Click on Fitness at this easy, breezy site and find just about everything you'll need to get yourself firm and fabulous. Step-

pers, benches, treadmills, jump ropes, weights, and stationary bikes are all reasonably priced. There's also a good selection of exercise apparel, especially Reebok items. Here, too, shipping is only \$5. [sportchalet.com]

—PAMELA DES BARRES

### PERSONAL FINANCE

## Ethical Investing

**LEARN THE BASICS** Morningstar.com: Socially Responsible Investing Conscience and money are no longer mutually exclusive. Socially responsible investing (SRI) picked up steam at the end of the '90s, as increasing numbers of investors and funds sought to realize returns while avoiding controversial products and practices. Fund-rating service Morningstar features a series of articles introducing consumers to this financial hand-washing trend, including "How to Pick a Socially Responsible Fund" and "How Do Socially Responsible Funds Stack Up?" [news.morningstar.com/news/ms/sri/sri.html]

**PICK YOUR FUNDS** Social-Funds.com Socially conscious funds screen for alcohol, tobacco, and gambling; weapons; animal testing; workers' rights; and environmental issues. Detailed charts let you see how almost 70 SRI funds measure up against one another. Headlines on the home page give visitors a quick rundown of who's been naughty and who's been nice in the corporate world, while the Education section offers overviews on related topics, such as community investing, inherited wealth, and philanthropy. Spend an evening on this site and call your broker in the morning (you'll sleep easier). [socialfunds.com]

**STAY INFORMED** Corporate Watch Investors in green funds and blue chips alike will find good reading at Corporate Watch, a look into backdoor company policies, practices, and politics. Original content covers corporate globalization, the environment, and sweat-

shops. Click on Research Corporations for several pages of links to company and industry information, activist campaigns, government resources, and more. Recent winners of the site's Greenwash Awards for public deception include Ford Motor Co. and the World Bank; visit the archives for the lowdown on past miscreants. [www.corpwatch.org]

### TALK ABOUT IT

Fool.com: Message Boards Although no one should rely on the "brother-in-law" approach to picking stocks, it's sometimes nice to seek opinions from strangers on the Web (some other person's brother-in-law, that is). Ethical investors, skeptics, and interested newcomers discuss companies, funds, and strategies on the always lively Motley Fool boards. Click on the Investors' Roundtable folder, then keep clicking forward through the alphabetical topics list until you reach Socially Responsible Investing. [boards.fool.com]

—HEIDI LAFLECHE

## ESSENTIALS

### BUYING BONDS

SMARTMONEY.COM: BONDS [smartmoney.com/intro/bonds]

A visit to this top financial hub will pay off. It's packed with daily articles, how-to's, and strategies for fixed-income investments.

### INVESTINGINBONDS.COM

[investinginbonds.com] Beginners can use the glossary and guide to bond basics to find out more about yield and risk factors.

### E\*TRADE

[etrade.com]

Click over to the Bond Center to make a purchase, whether it's government, corporate, or municipal.

### CNNFN: BONDS AND RATES

[cnnfn.com/markets/bondcenter]

How much are your bonds worth? Get the latest rates and prices here.

## GETAWAY GURU

BY SUSAN BRESLOW SARDONE



# The Accidental Tourist

Want to breathe easier on your next trip? Buy a little insurance

**S**O MANY THINGS CAN GO WRONG ON A TRIP: Plane delays, lost luggage, health emergencies, and nonstop rain all have the ability to transform a happily anticipated journey into a miserable one. How can you protect yourself? You may want to consider some form of travel insurance. ■ Several companies sell such policies online: **TFG GLOBAL TRAVEL INSURANCE.COM** [[www.globaltravelinsurance.com](http://www.globaltravelinsurance.com)] and **WORLDTRAVELCENTER.COM** offer a policy that covers cancellation, emergency medical care, and lost luggage for trips of more than 15 days. **TRAVEL PROTECTION SERVICES** [[travelprotect.com](http://travelprotect.com)] bases rates on a customer's age and includes rental car coverage.

Insurance companies aren't the only ones coming to the aid of imperiled travelers. **BIZTRAVEL.COM** recently announced its on-time guarantee, which compensates customers for late or canceled flights on American Airlines, US Airways, Continental Airlines, British Airways, and Air France when tickets are purchased through the site.

"The program goes to the heart of consumer protection," says Biztravel vice president and gen-

eral manager Justin Shaw. "If you buy a product or service that doesn't deliver, you have a right to some form of compensation." Biztravel rebates \$100 for flights arriving more than 30 minutes late, \$200 for flights arriving more than an hour late, and the full ticket price for late arrivals exceeding two hours. Claims must be filed within 24 hours, and delays or cancellations due to mechanical problems are not covered.

So far, other leading travel hubs haven't rushed to match Biztravel's offer. "Our site helps travelers get the right trip, rather than rewarding them for bad luck," says Suzi Levine of **EXPEDIA.COM**. Both Expedia and **TRAVELOCITY.COM** do, however, offer price guarantees to customers who book hotels online: If you can find a lower rate, the sites will refund the difference or cancel your reservation without penalty.

With all this protection available, it may be safe to leave home again.

## OUTDOORS

### Surfing

**BIG KAHUNA Surfermag.com** The sport that gave the Net its operative verb is itself online, and, with prime wave season about to hit the West Coast, now's the time to paddle out. Start with this well-designed virtual companion to surfing's leading magazine. Like a cute surfer with brains, it hooks you with competition news and rad action shots, then holds your interest with smart, authoritative writing. In the Learn section, you can e-mail questions to seasoned pros. [surfermag.com]

### BREAKING WAVES

**Surfline** Knowing where the waves are is pure gold to those who ride them. This is the most-visited surfing site on the Web because it gives you up-to-the-minute wave reports, forecasts, and "surf cams" streaming live video from popular spots around the world. Enter your home break into Surf Alert and the site will e-mail you when waves are headed your way. [surfline.com]

### BREAKING SITE Swell.com

Set to launch just after press time, this eagerly awaited and heavily funded site has drafted first-rate talent from leading old-

MAN WITH UMBRELLA: TRINETTE REED/STONE; SURFER: CARL SCHNEIDER/FPG



**VICTORIAN'S SECRET:** New frames old on the San Francisco skyline.

### KILLER APP Global WAM Forecasts (Unclassified) Wave Model

forecasts from the Department of Defense are updated every 12 hours with maps indicating swell direction and size (the redder, the better). Surfers—probably not the target audience—are stoked, claiming that it has revolutionized swell forecasting. Watch hurricanes develop off Baja or track giant northwesterly moving up from Asia and along the Aleutians until they smack into Santa Cruz. [[152.80.49.210/PUBLIC/WAM/wam.html](#)]

### COAST GUARD Surfrider Foundation USA

Surfers, and anyone else who loves the beach,

best things to do—several of which won't cost you a dime. If you're new to the city, the Tour for San Francisco Virgins (under the Visitors' Guide) is a good primer. [[sfgate.com/travel](#)]

### PAINTED LADIES Victorian Style...in San Francisco...

Try to imagine San Francisco without endless hills of gorgeous Victorian homes. This site is one man's tribute to the architecture that gives the city much of its charm, with lots of photos and facts. Great for planning a walking tour—or for some sightseeing right at your desk. [[geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Palladium/8026/victorianstyle.html](#)]

### PICKS & PANS San Francisco Underground Travel

What's "SF's Lamest Tourist Trap"? Fisherman's Wharf, according to the folks who stop by here to rant and rave. Read what other travelers have to say about their experiences with the city's lodging, transportation, and attractions, from horror stories about seedy hostels to tips on finding the best luxury accommodations. After your trip, you can drop a line and chime in. [[sfttravel.com](#)]

—KEVIN DELANEY

### SERVICES

## Weather Reports

### HOME BASE Weather.com

In the good old days, meteorologists attempted to predict climatic changes by observing groundhog shadows, cricket chirps, and the fuzz of woolly caterpillars. Today, satellite imagery and other technological tricks let any PC become a weather station. The Weather Channel site gives you far more specific information than you'll find on the cable network. There are clickable U.S. maps aimed at travelers (rain, fog, and current temperatures); golfers (winds and lightning strikes); gardeners (planting schedules, frost and freeze advisories); pilots (jet stream and

entry every time the National Weather Service issues a tropical storm advisory. Even sluggish modems get speedy access to the latest strike probabilities, Java-animated maps, and other relevant info, including National Hurricane Center graphics. Bookmark both sites, because it's often hard to get through to the NHC during a major storm. [[hurricane.terrapin.com](#)]; [[www.nhc.noaa.gov](#)]

### BIG PICTURE National Centers for Environmental Prediction

Meteorologists—professionals as well as amateurs—stop by this site for solar and geophysical forecasts. But even novices will appreciate the vivid images of sun swirls and hot spots in the Space Environment Center. Closer to home, in-depth articles and detailed maps forecast monthly and seasonal weather, provide weekly updates on La Niña, and examine threats from fires, drought, floods, and Atlantic hurricanes. [[www.ncep.noaa.gov](#)]

—CARL FRANZ, LORENA HAVENS

## ESSENTIALS

### AIR ACCIDENTS

#### AIRSAFE.COM

[[airsafe.com](#)]

Research the accident track records of major airlines and models. To put your mind at ease, browse the five fear-of-flying articles and safety tips.

#### DISASTER.COM

[[disaster.com](#)]

For the faint of heart. See footage, read chilling witness accounts, and reports on nearly 1,500 fatal plunges.

#### SAFETY NETWORK

[[ion-safety.net](#)] Looking for crash clues? Get stats on aircraft accidents and transcripts of real black boxes.

#### SHPAGES.COM

[[shpages.com](#)] Listen to the cockpit voice recordings from major accidents such as Delta flight 191 and Northwest flight 255.



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## GETAWAY GURU

BY SUSAN BRESLOW SARDONE



# The Accidental Tourist

Want to breathe easier on your next trip? Buy a little insurance

**S**O MANY THINGS CAN GO WRONG ON A TRIP: Plane delays, lost luggage, health emergencies, and nonstop rain all have the ability to taint even the most anticipated journeys. How can you want to consider travel insurance. ■ See policies online: [TRAVELPROTECTION.COM](http://TRAVELPROTECTION.COM) [www.globeandmail.com/travelcenter] covers cancellations and lost luggage for [WORLDTRAVELCENTRE.COM](http://WORLDTRAVELCENTRE.COM). Travel Protection bases rates on a customer's rental car coverage.

Insurance companies are coming to the aid of individuals recently annoyed by which compensates flight delays on American Airlines, British Airways, and when tickets are purchased.

"The program gives you protection," says Biz

general manager Justin Shaw. "If you buy a product or service that doesn't deliver, you have a right to a refund or replacement."

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## OUTDOORS

### Surfing

**BIG KAHUNA Surfermag.com** The sport that gave the Net its operative verb is itself online, and, with prime wave season about to hit the West Coast, now's the time to paddle out. Start with this well-designed virtual companion to surfing's leading magazine. Like a cute surfer with brains, it hooks you with competition news and rad action shots, then holds your interest with smart, authoritative writing. In the Learn section, you can e-mail questions to seasoned pros. [surfermag.com]

### BREAKING WAVES

**Surfline** Knowing where the waves are is pure gold to those who ride them. This is the most-visited surfing site on the Web because it gives you up-to-the-minute wave reports, forecasts, and "surf cams" streaming live video from popular spots around the world. Enter your home break into Surf Alert and the site will e-mail you when waves are headed your way. [surfline.com]

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**COAST GUARD Surfrider Foundation USA** Surfers, and anyone else who loves the beach, should join this organization devoted to protecting the world's coastlines. Learn more and sign up at the group's informative and straightforward site, which offers news on local chapters and relevant legislation. [[surfrider.org](http://surfrider.org)] —ED LOVETT

### DESTINATIONS

## San Francisco

### BEST LOCAL GUIDE SF Gate: Bay Area Traveler

Though it covers only about 49 square miles, San Francisco is home to such an array of hotels, restaurants, museums, theaters, and sightseeing spots that a first-time visitor can easily be overwhelmed. This site is tops for planning activities, with entertainment listings and reviews, up-to-the-minute traffic reports, and guides to the

best things to do—several of which won't cost you a dime. If you're new to the city, the Tour for San Francisco Virgins (under the Visitors' Guide) is a good primer. [[sfgate.com/travel](http://sfgate.com/travel)]

### PAINTED LADIES Victorian Style...in San Francisco...

Try to imagine San Francisco without endless hills of gorgeous Victorian homes. This site is one man's tribute to the architecture that gives the city much of its charm, with lots of photos and facts. Great for planning a walking tour—or for some sightseeing right at your desk. [[geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Palladium/8026/victorianstyle.html](http://geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Palladium/8026/victorianstyle.html)]

### POETRY IN MOTION The San Francisco Cable Car Website

Avoid the hassles of driving—while imagining you're starring in a Rice-A-Roni commercial! These moving historic landmarks are definitely the most fun and economical way to get around town, and this snappy site will give you all the info you need about fares and routes. [[sf cablecar.com](http://sf cablecar.com)]

### PIECE OF THE ROCK The National Park Service: Alcatraz Island

It began as a military fort in 1859. From 1934 to 1963 it was a famous federal prison. Today, Alcatraz offers one of San Francisco's most unforgettable tours. Before you visit, check out this site for slide shows and a detailed history, including the story of its occupation by Native Americans from 1969 to 1971. [[www.nps.gov/alcatraz](http://www.nps.gov/alcatraz)]

### PICKS & PANS San Francisco Underground Travel

What's "SF's Lamest Tourist Trap"? Fisherman's Wharf, according to the folks who stop by here to rant and rave. Read what other travelers have to say about their experiences with the city's lodging, transportation, and attractions, from horror stories about seedy hostels to tips on finding the best luxury accommodations. After your trip, you can drop a line and chime in. [[sftravel.com](http://sftravel.com)]

—KEVIN DELANEY

### SERVICES

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### GLOBAL FORECASTS Wunderground.com

Available in dozens of languages, the Weather Underground gives you instant access to current conditions and five-day forecasts for Rome, Italy, as well as Rome, New York. Use the handy Add button to put almost any city in the world on your personal Favorites page. You'll also find astronomical charts for stargazing, and marine and ski reports. [[wunderground.com](http://wunderground.com)]

### STORM WATCH Hurricane & Storm Tracking for the Atlantic & Pacific Oceans; National Hurricane Center: Tropical Prediction Center

The no-frills Hurricane & Storm Tracking site creates a new

entry every time the National Weather Service issues a tropical storm advisory. Even sluggish modems get speedy access to the latest strike probabilities, Java-animated maps, and other relevant info, including National Hurricane Center graphics. Bookmark both sites, because it's often hard to get through to the NHC during a major storm. [[hurricane.terrapin.com](http://hurricane.terrapin.com)]; [[www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)]

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Meteorologists—professionals as well as amateurs—stop by this site for solar and geophysical forecasts. But even novices will appreciate the vivid images of sun swirls and hot spots in the Space Environment Center. Closer to home, in-depth articles and detailed maps forecast monthly and seasonal weather, provide weekly updates on La Niña, and examine threats from fires, drought, floods, and Atlantic hurricanes. [[www.ncep.noaa.gov](http://www.ncep.noaa.gov)]

—CARL FRANZ, LORENA HAVENS

## ESSENTIALS

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[[airsafe.com](http://airsafe.com)]

Research the accident track records of major airlines and aircraft models. To put your mind at ease, browse the extensive fear-of-flying resources and safety tips.

### AIRDISASTER.COM

[[airdisaster.com](http://airdisaster.com)]

Not for the faint of heart. See crash footage, read chilling eyewitness accounts, and peruse reports on nearly 1,500 fatal plunges.

### AVIATION SAFETY NETWORK

[[aviation-safety.net](http://aviation-safety.net)]

Looking for crash clues? Check out stats on aircraft components and transcripts from real black boxes.

### CRASHPAGES.COM

[[crashpages.com](http://crashpages.com)]

Listen to the cockpit voice recordings from major accidents such as Delta flight 191 and Northwest flight 255.

## THE HOME FRONT

BY CHRISTY EPSTEIN



# Find After-School Help

Could your child use some **class-work guidance?** Try an online tutor

**Y**OU'VE BOUGHT PENCILS, NOTEBOOKS, AND a fancy new wardrobe. You got the cable modem during the summer. Now if only you could take your kids' tests for them. Well, you *can* find someone who will help them boost their grades: an online tutor. **TUTOR.COM**, **TOPTUTORS.COM**, and **TUTORNET** [[www.tutornet.com](http://www.tutornet.com)] provide virtual classrooms that let students and teachers communicate in real time.

At Tutornet, students log on to scheduled group sessions. Tutor.com and TopTutors offer one-on-one instruction by appointment, a good option for children who need individual attention. Only Tutor.com provides help on demand. Its FastMatch system allows kids to log on for on-the-spot assistance—thus relieving you from trying to explain the Pythagorean theorem to your bleary-eyed teen.

At press time, Tutor.com had 15,000 registered tutors in 32 countries, with plans to expand to 50,000 instructors by this winter. The site includes more than 400 subjects, from general mathematics to geography. Tutors log on whenever they are available and wait for a pupil in need. Once a

match has been made, you complete a simple, secure credit card transaction. Tutor.com takes 10 percent of the teacher's fee, which can run from \$10 to \$200 per hour, depending on the level of expertise. Plans are in the works for a Tutor.com foundation, which will offer scholarships to students who can't afford to pay.

If putting your child in the hands of a stranger on the Web alarms you, rest assured: The sites discussed here conduct background checks. At Tutor.com, the individual instructors decide whether they want their records examined or not; a symbol next to their names indicates which tutors have opted to pay for this check.

Though no studies have been released that measure the effectiveness of online tutoring, kids seem to like it. "There is less pressure learning this way," reports one student who recently used Tutor.com. "Because it's a computer, you and the teacher have more time to think of the right answers." This approach could be the answer the next time your child looks at you helplessly and says, "I just don't get it."

## COMMUNITY

### Girl Power

**BRAVE NEW GIRL** **Bust:** **The Voice of the New Girl Order** Schoolmarm-style feminism has given way to a new wave of raw, raunchy, and rollicking voices. Bust is a Web site for girls who like everything nice spiked with everything naughty, sugar laced with sarcasm, and spice peppered with vitriol. Celebrating the "new girl order," editors Celina Hex and Betty Boob provide stories from their popular print zine, a boutique featuring items such as Femme Arsenal lip gloss, and links to more than 2,200 sister sites. [[www.bust.com](http://www.bust.com)]

**DEN MOTHER** **Chickclick** Home base for a network of young women earning self-empowerment merit badges, Chickclick offers a safe haven to all manner of self-proclaimed bitches, harlots, trollops, tramps, nags, shrews, and furies. Each boasts her own Web site, that contemporary equivalent of "the room of one's own" imagined by Virginia Woolf. [[chickclick.com](http://chickclick.com)]

**FOXY BRITS** **PlanetGrrl** Cheerleading for the new feminism from the U.K., birthplace of the "riot grrl," this hot-pink site offers young chickadees advice on everything from love and sex to jobs, health, ecology, and culture. There's an entire section devoted to grrls in rock, offering the latest pronouncements by Courtney Love alongside schedules for women's music festivals. [[www.planetgrrl.com](http://www.planetgrrl.com)]

**GRRL GUIDE** **Grrl** Bonnie Burton has led flocks of cyberchicks on the path to enlightenment by covering girl-power Web sites for various publica-



STUDENTS: ELIE BERNARD/STONE; THREE WOMEN: DAVE HAGEL/STONE



tions. Her own site is among the funniest of the lot. Bonnie personifies the do-it-yourself philosophy and pop culture aesthetic of the new feminism: She promotes her own fan club, and she even posts an "art gallery" featuring book covers from sleazy romance novels and a mural of the Trix cereal rabbit painted on her kitchen wall. [www.grrl.com]

—FRANK GREEN

## FOOD & DRINK

### Wine Guides

**FOR BEGINNERS** Wine Education Site Just graduating from Chablis-in-a-box? This site delivers a case of information, including an audio-enhanced glossary, tips on pairing food and wine, and a guide to disarming the snooty wine steward. Discover the dos and don'ts of starting a wine cellar, tour the world's great grape-growing regions, or learn about investing in fine vintages. [www.wineeducation.com]

**FOR CONNOISSEURS** Robin Garr's Wine Lovers' Page Whether you're an oenophile or working your way up, you'll enjoy browsing the tasting reports, compiled from submissions by Garr's fellow connoisseurs, on more than 50,000 wines. You want to join the party? Take a quick wine-tasting course, then print out the forms you need from the Wine Tasting Toolbox. The truly committed can download a free Wine Talk application for a Palm VII, which will help you find the per-

fect mate for your grilled salmon—wherever you might happen to be. [wine-lovers-page.com]

### HOT OFF THE PRESS

**Wine Spectator** The online version of the popular print magazine touts itself as "the most comprehensive wine Web site in the world," and it's hard to argue. The wine search offers notes and ratings on more than 83,000 varieties. Locate retailers and restaurants; chat, shop; check stock quotes for wine issues; or visit the Travel section for vacation tips as well as hotel and restaurant info. Full access requires a paid subscription,

but many features are available for free. [winespectator.com]

—ALEXIS ADAMS

## FAMILY

### Kids' Sports

**HOME BASE Sports Illustrated for Kids** To many youngsters, a passion for sports comes as naturally as staying up late on a school night. The Shorter Reporter dispatches all the latest sports news and trivia, while the Games/Sports Arcade features slammin' Shockwave games such as Football Frenzy and Snowboard Mt. Fuji. Best of all is the Fantasy Sports page, where kids can draft their own all-star teams. [sikids.com]

### BATTER UP Little League

**Online** From its humble beginnings in 1939, Little League baseball has grown to an astounding 7,431 leagues, with nearly 3 million participants worldwide. Of course, Little League is more than just a sport. As we learn at the official site, the organization sponsors a wide-ranging series of educational programs designed to improve the communities in which we live, work,

and play. Geared more toward parents than young players, the site posts news, league manuals, and details on tournament structure. [www.littleleague.org]

### FIELD GOAL Soccer Jr.

**Online** Teaching soccer strategies over the Internet might seem like an impossible task, but Soccer Jr. comes pretty darn close. Coach Tisha Venturini helps youngsters learn the fundamentals in the Skills section, which is packed with helpful tips such as, "If it hurts when you head, you are probably heading improperly." Soccer stars such as Mia Hamm answer questions. [soccerjr.com]

### FIGHTING STANCE Black Belt for Kids

**Black Belt for Kids** This resource for budding black belts offers a crash course that begins at the beginning: how to choose the school that's right for you. To help you decide, the site provides an overview of major fighting styles and a searchable directory of dojos. *Dojo?* you ask. Check the martial arts dictionary, where you'll learn that it's "the place of the way," or "a training hall...where Japanese martial arts are practiced." [www.blackbeltmag.com/bbkids]

—JAMES PORTEOUS

## SPOTLIGHT BY LISA KO

### Fresh Fish, Fresh Ideas

If we were forced to eat sushi every day for the rest of our lives, a lot of us wouldn't complain. And even if you don't agree, plenty of resources exist on the Web—from novice guides to detailed histories—that might just sway your opinion about eating raw fish.

**THE WORLD-WIDE SUSHI RESTAURANT REFERENCE!** Shoot out a location for your next meal at this directory of more than 1,600 sushi restaurants around the

world. Just start looking out? See the glossary, tips on bar etiquette, and advice for beginners. If you're already hooked, join a sushi society or mailing list to find like-minded connoisseurs. [www.cis.unisa.edu.au/~jm/Sushi]

**ROLLING YOUR OWN SUSHI!** If you can get your hands on fresh fish, it's often cheaper—and more satisfying—to roll it yourself. This sushi fan's recipe site offers the necessary equip-



ment, ingredients and step-by-step instructions for preparing treats ranging from sashimi to the basic California roll. One thing the page won't teach you: how to use chopsticks. [rain.org/~hutch/sushi.html]

**SUSHI & ENVIRONMENT** View a Japanese- or English picture dictionary that covers popular types

of sushi, read a brief rundown of sushi's origins in Southeast Asia (it apparently stems from a centuries-old method of preserving fish), and teach yourself about the differences between the *narezushi* and *nigirzushi* style. [american.edu/sis/sfpages/projects/sushi/sushi.htm]

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# webUser

HOW TO GET THE MOST NET IN THE LEAST TIME EDITED BY ROB BERNSTEIN

## FIND IT

BY JEREMY CAPLAN

Looking for exciting e-mail alternatives? New services can add audio and video to your messages, at no cost



If you thought you needed a keyboard to send and receive e-mail, think again. Several slick new services let you record and send audio messages via e-mail, while others let you check your messages by phone. All of the services are free, and they let you use your existing e-mail address—with no complicated downloads.

After a quick setup at [SHOUTMAIL.COM](http://SHOUTMAIL.COM), [EVOKE COMMUNICATIONS](http://EVOKECOMMUNICATIONS.COM) [[evoke.com](http://evoke.com)], or [TELLSOFT:ITALK!](http://TELLSOFTITALK.COM) [[italk.com](http://italk.com)], you just pick up the phone, dial a toll-free number, and record an audio message for multiple recipients. Your e-mail is sent without any clunky attachments and gives recipients a link to your audio message on the Web.

Another online service, [TALKSENDER](http://TALKSENDER.COM) [[talksender.com](http://talksender.com)], lets you record an audio message using your PC's built-in micro-

phone and will even send you a free clip-on lapel mic (shipping is \$4). Your recipients don't need RealPlayer to hear your message; voice messages play automatically in most online e-mail services and on most e-mail programs, including Hotmail and Microsoft Outlook Express, to name a couple.

If you've got a Web cam, you may want to investigate [TALKWAY COMMUNICATIONS](http://TALKWAYCOMMUNICATIONS.COM) [[talkway.com](http://talkway.com)], which lets surfers fire off video e-mails. To see them, recipients click on a link embedded in the message.

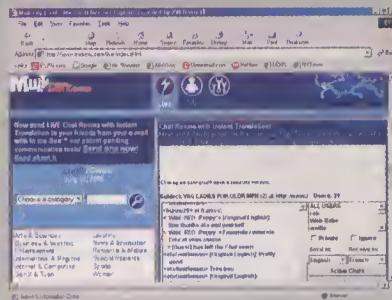
Finally, for those who want new solutions for both sending and receiving messages, there's [COOLEMAIL](http://COOLEMAIL.COM) [[coolemail.com](http://coolemail.com)]. This service (free for 15 minutes a month) reads your in-box messages to you over the phone and lets you reply to senders' audio e-mail attachments.

## QUICKTIPS

### UNIVERSAL TRANSLATOR

Even those who flunked their foreign language classes in high school can communicate with surfers from around the globe, thanks to a new service from [MULTICITY.COM](http://MULTICITY.COM). The site's chat technology instantly translates incoming text messages into one of 18 languages, including English, French, Spanish, Japanese, and Dutch.

Multicity also offers a free chat tool, In-the-Box, which allows you to send active chat-rooms to friends via e-mail; recipients can communicate with you from their in-box and forward the chatroom to other friends.



### WUNDERBAR

Improve the search functionality of Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer with the [BETTER SEARCHBAR](http://BETTERSEARCHBAR.COM) [[stormbird.cjb.net](http://stormbird.cjb.net)]. This free browser add-on offers one-click access to 26 different search services in Explorer (11 in Navigator) and loads with lightning speed. The software, which is for PCs only, works with Internet Explorer 4.01 or later, or with Netscape Navigator 4.x or later.

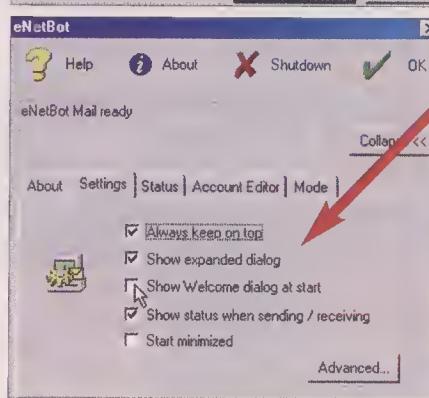
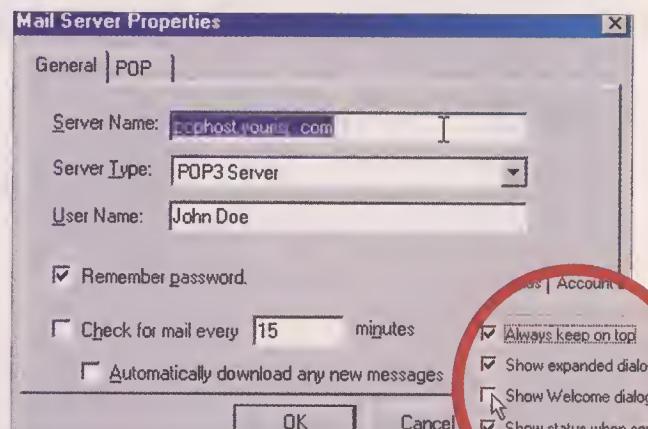
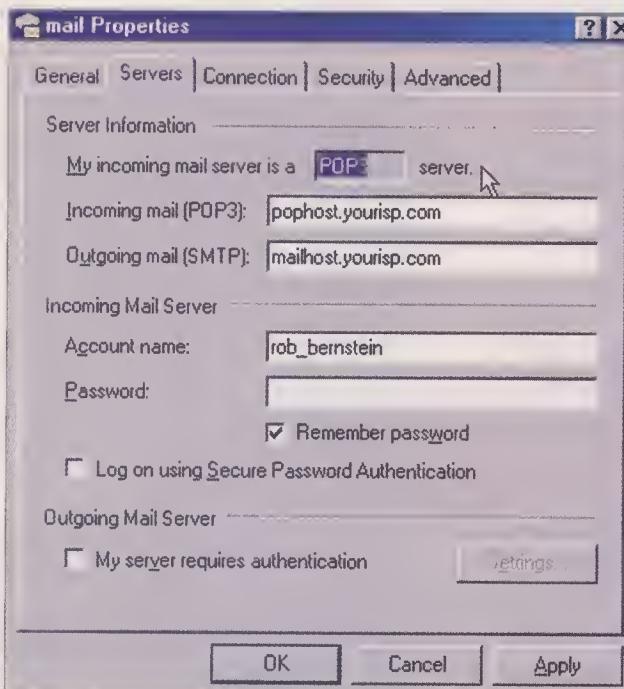
### ADDRESS UNKNOWN?

You've just launched your own e-commerce site for buying, selling, and swapping antiques, baseball cards, Fabio fitness workout videos, whatever. Now it's time to get the word out on the Net. Make a beeline for [WEBMASTERSUITE.COM](http://WEBMASTERSUITE.COM), a service that will submit your address to AltaVista, Google, Direct Hit, WebCrawler, Northern Light, and other prominent search engines for free. Or sign up for Advanced Service, and for \$30 you can announce your site to more than 400 specialized search engines.

## LEARNIT

BY LOU DOLINAR

### How to access your e-mail from any PC in the world



**ARE YOU DOWN WITH POP?** Configuring a POP-mail account in Outlook Express (far left) and Netscape Messenger (top); accessing AOL Mail using Enetbot.

### .01

#### COLLECTING THE INFO

Great, your boss is going to let you work at home. Question is, will you e-mail? Although it may seem daunting at first, accessing your in-box from a remote PC is simple. To get started, you'll need to know the answers to these four questions.

- Does your ISP use a POP or IMAP server? These are two protocols used for retrieving your e-mail. Although you need to know which one your ISP uses, you don't need to understand the difference between them.

- What is the name of the incoming mail server? It usually reads "mail.yourisp.com."
- What is the name of the outgoing mail server? It usually reads "mailhost.yourisp.com."
- What is your account name? In the address "youraccountname@yourisp.com," the account name is "youraccountname."

If you use Netscape Messenger as your e-mail program, you can find the answers to these questions by opening Navigator and choosing Edit/Preferences. In the Preferences window, click on Mail & Newsgroups and choose Mail Servers. If you use Microsoft Outlook Express, open the program and choose Tools/Accounts. In the Internet Accounts window, click on the Mail tab. Double-click on your account. This will launch the Mail Properties window. Now click on the Servers tab.

Alternatively, you can simply contact your ISP and ask for the information.

### .02

#### PLUGGING IN THE INFO

Now plug your account info into your e-mail program. **Messenger:** Open Navigator and choose Edit/Preferences. In the Preferences window, click on Mail & Newsgroups; then select the subheading Identity. Enter your e-mail address. Next, returning to Mail & Newsgroups, click on Mail Servers and hit Add. Choose the server type (POP or IMAP). Then enter your incoming-server name and your account name. Click OK. In the Outgoing Mail Server area, enter your outgoing mail server. Click OK. **Outlook Express:** Choose Tools/Accounts. Click on the Mail tab, then the Add button. This will launch an easy-to-use Internet Connection Wizard, which will take you through the process of setting up a new mail account.

### .03

#### AOL—A SPECIAL CASE

You can always access your e-mail on the Web at AOL.com. If you prefer a more feature-rich e-mail program, download **ENETBOT** [enetbot.com], which is shareware that lets programs such as Outlook Express and Messenger send and receive AOL messages.

LOU DOLINAR WRITES THE PLUGGED IN COLUMN FOR NEWSDAY.

# SEARCHALERT

BY DANNY SULLIVAN

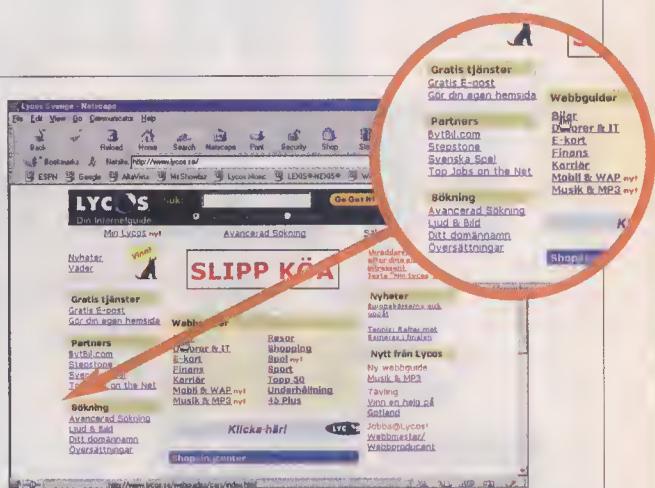
Travel off the beaten path and run queries at the Web's best foreign-language portals

IT'S A WORLDWIDE WEB, FOR SURE, BUT IT'S LIKELY THAT YOU spend most of your time surfing to sites created in the U.S. that are published in English only. Be a little more adventurous—click to a foreign search portal for a change. These regional hubs are great travel guides and can even help you brush up on a second language.

Most large, U.S.-based search engines maintain international versions of their services. These can be accessed via links conveniently listed at the bottom of their respective home pages. For instance, Excite, Yahoo!, and Lycos all have Japanese, Chinese, Swedish, Spanish, and French destinations. U.S.-related listings are usually filtered out at these sites, making it much easier for users to find relevant international links.

To unearth other regional search engines, visit this page at my site, **SEARCH ENGINE WATCH: SEARCH LINKS** [[searchenginewatch.com/links](http://searchenginewatch.com/links)], or check out the equally respectable **SEARCH ENGINE GUIDE** [[searchenginewatch.com/guide](http://searchenginewatch.com/guide)]. Both sites offer listings of search engines by country, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe.

Several search engines allow you to seek sites according to language. At Google, for example, surfers can choose a language in



**FOREIGN EXCHANGE:** Go to Lycos Sweden to feast on a smorgasbord of Swedish-language Web links.

the pull-down window next to the query field. Run a search and the site will return pages written in any of 10 tongues. AltaVista offers a similar feature and a special Translate link at the end of each result. Click it, and you'll have the option of getting that site in any of six languages. *Sehr nützlich!*

DANNY SULLIVAN RUNS SEARCH ENGINE WATCH [[searchenginewatch.com](http://searchenginewatch.com)].

# SURFGURU

Cleaning up forwarded messages; printing bookmarks; deciphering error messages

I like forwarding e-mail to friends, but I hate the messy indentation marks (>) that appear in my messages. Is there any way to get rid of them without having to delete each one manually?

Yes, you can tidy up sloppy e-mail messages with a free, PC-only program called **ECLEANER** [[members.tripod.com/schin26](http://members.tripod.com/schin26)].

The software not only strips annoying indentation marks from your messages but also sweeps away unwanted headers, line breaks, HTML scripts, and extra spaces after periods.

The program can also be customized to remove other symbols from your e-mail, such as asterisks or numbers.



I want to pass along my list of bookmarks to my father. How can I print them for him?

Unfortunately, there isn't a simple way to print bookmarks or favorites from either Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer. However, software can help. I recommend you download **URLSEARCH** [[hotfiles.com](http://hotfiles.com)] or **SHOW-URL** [[www.showurl.com](http://www.showurl.com)].

[[faico.net/showurl](http://faico.net/showurl)]. The programs are free to try, and \$12 and \$35, respectively, to buy. Note that the free version of Show-URL prints only your first 30 bookmarks.

Alternatively, expert Navigator surfers can print the Bookmark.htm file. Run a Windows search to find it (Start/Find/Files or Folders), then save a copy of it as a text file (.txt). Open this document and print it.

I keep getting error messages when I surf the Net. What's the problem?

Well, different error messages indicate different things. For a thorough explanation of the many errors you may encounter while surfing the Web, head to **ELEMENT K JOURNALS: DEALING WITH ERROR MESSAGES** [[www.elementkjournals.com/etn/9702/etn9724.htm](http://www.elementkjournals.com/etn/9702/etn9724.htm)].

## AOLWATCH

Are you beleaguered by busy signals during peak Net usage hours? Try changing the order of your access numbers. After you've launched America Online, click Setup, choose Edit AOL Access Phone Numbers, then click the Next arrow. In the Numbers for this Location field, you can reorder numbers simply by dragging and dropping them. Or click the Add Number button to find some new digits in your area.

SEE THE SURF GURU AT [WWW.SURF-GURU.COM](http://WWW.SURF-GURU.COM) DAILY AND ON ZDTV'S INTERNET TONIGHT.

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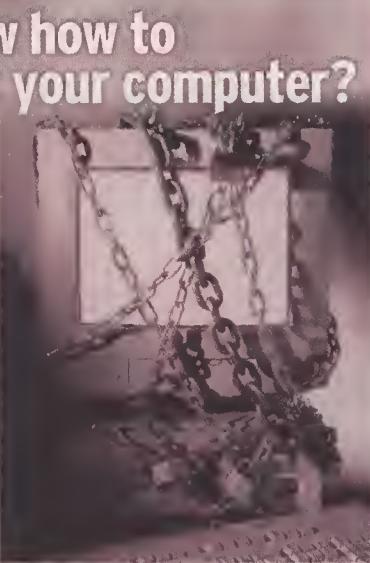
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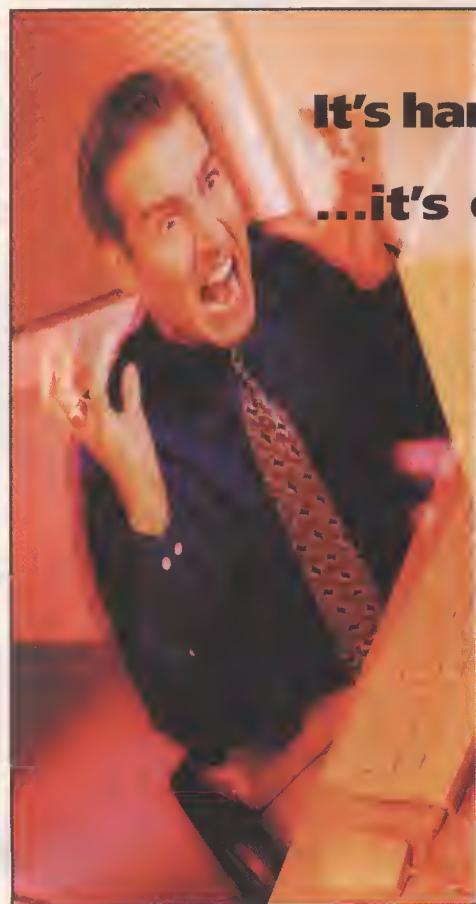


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# P.S.

# Rare Person Who Nibbles Glass Cups

THESE DAYS IT SEEMS THAT ANYONE can make it into the *Guinness Book of Records*. Take Lin Yin Cai. All he had to do was chew up and swallow 713 glass cups (not including the cup bottoms), and suddenly everyone thinks he's special (or "rare," as he likes to put it). He's got instant celebrity—the fame, the fortune, the stretch limos, the visits from royalty, and, of course, the women (glass-eater groupies are simply notorious). Show us someone who can resist being corrupted by the glamour of professional glass-eating; now *that's* a rare person [www.linyc.com/linyc/lyce.htm]

# The Shower Project 1999

BETWEEN MARCH AND DECEMBER 1999, Brian Benson showered with 100 different women. Not only did he shower with them, he convinced each one that it was a good idea to document the event with a photo for his Web site (not to worry—pixels of the naughty bits are scrambled for your mental hygiene). Why did Benson do this? The same reason that any of us do anything: to make coworkers jealous. We have the distinct feeling that it worked. [[theshowerproject.com](http://theshowerproject.com)]



THE WEIRD AND THE WACKY ON THE INTERNET BY SCOTT ALEXANDER

# Godawful Star Trek Fan Fiction

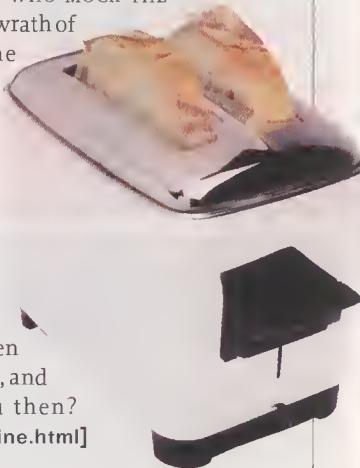
TIME WAS, FAN FICTION WAS AN ART PRACTICED BY A SMALL, TIGHTLY knit group of obsessives. Now, thanks to the Internet, any interstellar basement-dweller with a jones to see Kirk and Spock get it on can write their own "Last Tango in Mojibon 5" and have it read by an audience of tens. But how to separate the merely pervy fan fiction out there from the truly abominable? Rely on sites like GSTFF to find the offal among the dross, singling out such stories as "Christmas Miracles," the more than 50 gems in the Team Medi series (featuring characters from *ER*, *The Lord of the Rings*, and *Thundercats*), and a touching little ode to Dr. McCoy that proves that "not all bad poems are written about *Deep Space Nine*." If that's not enough, we have four words for you: "Captain Xena Kirk Commanding..."

[[internettrash.com/users/godawful\\_trekfic](http://internettrash.com/users/godawful_trekfic)]



# The Shrine to Toast

LET IT BE KNOWN THAT ALL THOSE WHO MOCK THE shrine to toast risk incurring the wrath of the High Priest of 12-Grain, the Acolyte of Buttermilk Wheat, and the Crouton King. Seven separate working toasters combine to give the shrine unmatched power to feed the hungry and clothe the naked (as long as the naked don't object to wearing clothes made from toast). So let the unbuttered among you scoff at the shrine. The day will come when you too are in need of condiments, and who will be there to help you then? [www.teleport.com/~cramsay/shrine.html]



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# Spud Server

IF YOU'VE EVER WONDERED ABOUT the negative ecological impact that the Internet has on the planet, you can rest easy. Someone has created a Web server that runs on potatoes. We're serious. Oh, all right, we're *not* serious. Someone has actually created a phony Web server that runs on potatoes. As an added bonus, the hoax is far more useful than the actual server would have been. [[totl.net/Spud](http://totl.net/Spud)]

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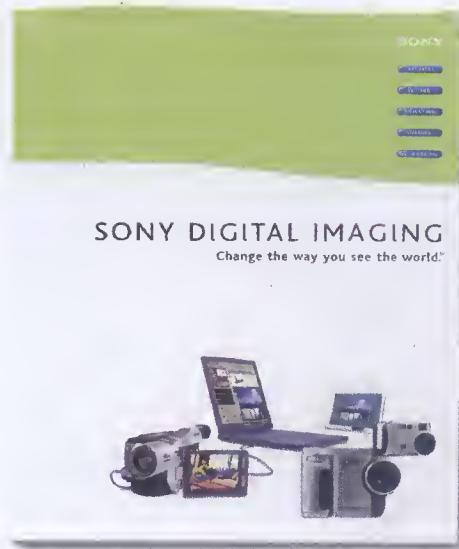
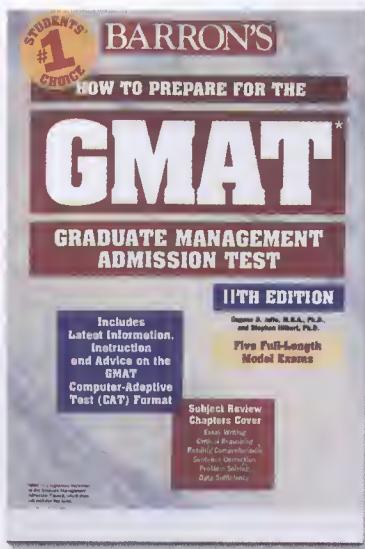
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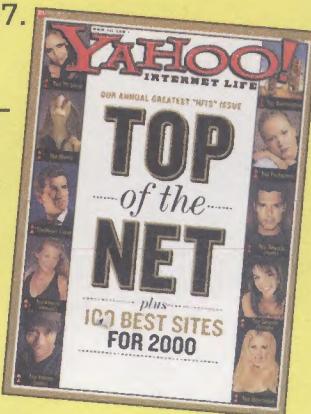
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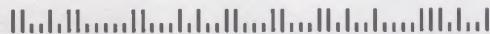
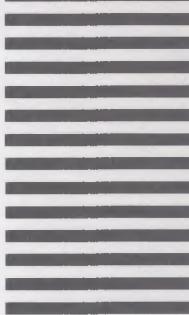
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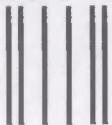
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